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Frank answers promised on Diana's family, her separation and the future

Princess's TV interview upsets Palace

By ALAN HAMILTON

BUCKINGHAM PALACE reacted with dismay yesterday to the news that the Princess of Wales has given an in-depth interview, revealing her thoughts on the breakdown of her marriage, to the BBC's current affairs programme *Panorama*. The hour-long face-to-face interview will be shown next Monday.

The interview was filmed at the Princess's official home at Kensington Palace earlier this month, but Palace officials said they knew nothing of it until the Princess told the Queen yesterday morning. "The project has obviously been undertaken at the Princess of Wales's initiative," a spokesman said.

There was a similar response from the Prince of Wales's officials at St James's Palace, from where he was given the first news of his estranged wife's public relations coup. On his 47th birthday, he was conducting official engagements in Germany, and was said to be furious when told the news.

The Queen is not expected to be among the huge audience watching her daughter-in-law reveal her secrets to the world. Buckingham Palace said: "The Queen does not watch *Panorama* — full stop. In any case, the Queen and Prince Philip will be at the Royal Variety Performance that night."

There is no law stating that members of the Royal Family must ask the Queen's permission to conduct a television interview, but it is normal practice. The Princess's secrecy will exacerbate an already strained relationship with the family in general and the Prince of Wales in particular.

The BBC declined to release any extracts of the interview. The Princess is known to have given frank answers to questions on all aspects of her life, including separation, possible divorce, her eating disorders and her friendships with married men such as Oliver Hoare and Will Carling, the England rugby captain. The



The Prince in Potsdam: 47 yesterday and upset

BBC said: "When she agreed to be interviewed she placed absolutely no constraints on the subject matter or the duration of the interview."

"She agreed to cover every stage of her life as the Princess of Wales, including her family, her separation and her future plans. Normal journalistic practices were followed. The interviewee was told about the broad areas of questioning but was not given questions in advance."

Her agreement to the interview, the first of its kind since her marriage, is a clear counterblast to the Prince's appearance in an ITV documentary last year, in which he confessed to the journalist Jonathan Dimbleby his adul-

tery with Camilla Parker Bowles. The couple separated in December 1992.

In that interview, the Prince said that a major reason for the breakdown of his marriage had been "intolerable media pressure". The Prince's confession produced mixed reactions among the public, although there appeared to be an overall sympathy for him in coming clean. It was, however, an inevitably one-sided account of events.

News of next week's programme was released by BBC Television yesterday as the Princess, who is patron of the mental health charity Turning Point, was touring Broadmoor top security hospital in Berkshire. Three days after the screening she is due to embark on a four-day working visit to Argentina, which has raised questions over her official status as a roving charity ambassador.

The BBC said yesterday that the initiative for the interview had come from *Panorama* and its reporter Martin Bashir, as part of continuing interest in questions involving the constitution.

Mr Bashir, 32, a *Panorama* reporter since 1992, landed his scoop after having several conversations with the Princess during an investigation into the constitutional position of the monarchy. He began his career in journalism in the mid-eighties as a freelance sports writer with *The Sunday Times*.

Not since her joint interview with the Prince shortly before their marriage in 1981 has the Princess faced the camera in such a way. Apart from a public statement in which she announced her partial withdrawal from public life — also pleading intolerable media pressure — the Princess's views have leaked out through third parties, "friends" and supposedly secret interviews with a *Daily Mail* journalist conducted in a car parked behind Harrods.

Royals and the media, page 3



Scoop: Martin Bashir



The Princess visiting Broadmoor hospital yesterday. She broke news of the interview to the Palace

Blair sets sights on political strength of the WI

By JILL SHERMAN
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TESSA JOWELL, one of Labour's leading modernisers, has been charged with turning round the party's "cloth cap" chauvinistic image, which puts off thousands of potential women voters.

Her special target is women aged over 40, particularly those who have voted Tory all their lives, and pitched at securing votes from Middle England, middle-aged women. She will tour the whole country but target marginal seats, many of which are in the South.

Ms Jowell is setting out to woo the heart of rural Britain by inviting members of the Women's Institute to lunch and tea in an effort to secure their support for Tony Blair at the next election.

Ms Jowell, 48, the party's spokesperson on women, will invite members of the institute, the National Council of Women as well as the townswomen's guilds to discuss a range of issues including crime, health, education and family welfare.

She proposes to write articles in women's magazines to show that Labour is now attuned to the concerns of middle-aged women. She plans to hold one meeting a week stretching over three or four months from March to early summer. The format will be a question-and-answer session similar to the Clause Four meetings which Mr Blair organised last year. She emphasised that the meetings would encourage people to meet each other, rather than to hear a "political diatribe".

Mr Blair has told his colleagues that the party's success in attracting older female voters could make the difference between electoral victory and defeat. While New Labour has attracted young female support, older women have still to be convinced.

Polling figures show that while many young women vote Labour the figures dwindle once women reach 40 and fall even faster with older women. In 1992 nearly 16 per cent more men voted Labour than women. If the same number of women as men had voted Labour in 1992, Neil Kinnock would have made it to Downing Street.

The world queues to watch

TELEVISION stations in America, Canada, Australia and most European countries, were trying to buy the *Panorama* interview with minutes of the BBC announcement. The programme is expected to become the corporation's highest-selling single documentary. Security surrounding the tape is tight, but

the BBC is confident that there will be no lapse.

The BBC's previous best-seller in global sales was *Thatcher: The Downing Street Years*, which brought in about £640,000. "This programme is going to break all records for global sales. It is red hot property," a BBC Worldwide spokesman said. "The response has been

phenomenal. Every major broadcaster in the world has been in contact. Within two hours of the announcement, we were close to signing deals with America, Australia, Canada and all of Europe. As Asia wakes up to the news... they are ringing too. We expect this to break all records for international sales of a one-off factual programme."

Taxpayers in EU 'have lost £2bn'

Lax management and fraud cost taxpayers up to £2 billion last year, the European Union auditors have estimated.

Their report attacked the European Commission and member states for failing to curb their spendthrift ways. Page 2

£1.25m damages

A man severely brain damaged in an incident 33 years ago has been awarded £1.25 million damages. Page 5

Famous Five poised to go to the highest bidder

By DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

COPYRIGHT to the works of Enid Blyton, one of the world's most prolific children's authors, is for sale from 1997, the centenary of her birth.

The rights to classics featuring The Famous Five and The Secret Seven are being offered for "at least £10 million". Although the BBC has "substantial control" of Noddy publishing rights, royalties from Noddy sales are part of the assets for sale.

Blyton was the sixth most borrowed author from British libraries last year. Her books have been translated into more than 30 languages and around 8.5 million are sold annually worldwide. Merchandising tie-ins and film spin-offs could therefore provide huge returns for the copyright buyer.

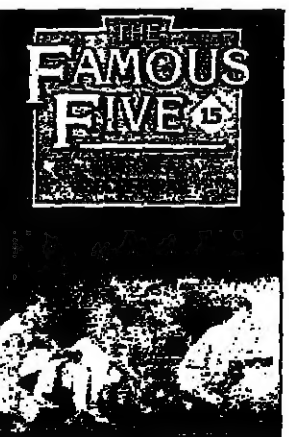
Blyton wrote more than 700 books, but as the publishing rights are already owned by various publishers, a copy-

right deal will focus mainly on merchandising and film rights.

The sale is being handled by Price Waterhouse. Copyright is owned by the author's descendants, her two daughters and a grand-daughter. None of them was available for comment yesterday. However, in 1989, the youngest

daughter, Imogen, disclosed that her mother had been unable to tell the difference between her servants and children, and that, while writing books for children, she resented any noise her children might make. Blyton, who died in 1968, once told her agent that her books were her children.

Price Waterhouse said that interest in Blyton's work diminished with the advent of less traditional ways of telling children's stories. Her critics also scorned her sexism and racism. Last April, it was reported that the BBC was contending with American concern that Big Ears would affect people with physical abnormalities. "However, with growing concern over children's education and a shortage of modern, high quality children's authors, a more pragmatic view is being taken," a spokesman said.



Shell rejects calls to leave Nigeria

By CARL MORTISHED

ONE billion dollars would be at the disposal of Nigeria's military government should a Shell project to build a liquefied natural gas plant be cancelled, the company said yesterday.

The future of the project had been called into question amid calls for international sanctions against the Government of Nigeria after the execution of the writer and Ogoni activist Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight others last week.

Yesterday, Shell again rejected accusations that it was in collusion with the military government and said it had appealed to the Nigerian head of state for clemency after the death sentence was imposed on Mr Saro-wiwa. Shell said: "We believe as a multinational company that to interfere in such processes, whether political or legal, in any country would be wrong."

The company also rejected suggestions that it should pull out of the troubled country. Brian Anderson, managing director of Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria, said: "This would not hurt the Nigerian economy because Nigerian Shell staff, who make up 97 per cent of our workforce, would have to continue oil operations or face extreme sanctions."

Substantial funds, earmarked for the construction of the \$4 billion (£2.5 billion) gas liquefaction plant, have already been deposited in banks outside Nigeria by the Nigerian state oil company, NNPC, and its multinational partners, Shell, Elf and Agip. These funds would be returned if the project is cancelled, Shell explained yesterday.

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Southern states accused of massive deception

Auditors blame EU for £2bn fraud and waste

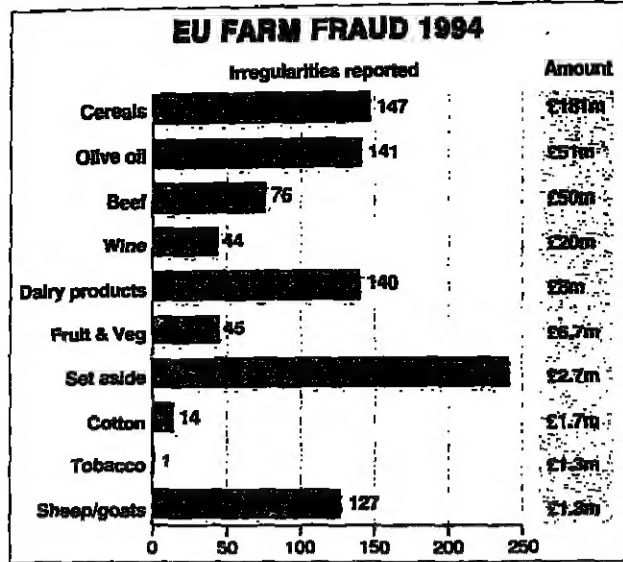
FROM CHARLES BREMNER
IN BRUSSELS

LAX management and fraud cost European taxpayers up to £2 billion last year, the European Union's auditors estimated yesterday. Their report attacked the European Commission and member states for failing to curb their spend-thrift ways.

In its latest annual catalogue of EU financial bungling, the Court of Auditors welcomed steps by the Commission to tighten its controls, but said it was still guilty of extensive waste and mismanagement. Although Britain came in for some criticism, the auditors' chief target this year was the spending on the fruit, vegetable and fishing industries of the southern member states. Agriculture accounts for half of EU spending.

Brian was cited for the alleged misuse of funds for developing "trans-frontier" projects in Northern Ireland. Only 39 out of 270 funded projects met the cross-border requirement, the court said.

Martin Bangemann, the in-



dustry Commissioner, was criticised for accepting a hefty fee for delivering a speech at an EU-subsidised seminar in eastern Germany.

Exercising new powers conferred on them by the Maas-tricht treaty, the auditors refused to certify the overall "reliability" of the Commission's accounts because of

faulty and inadequate figures. "We are not in the same position as private-sector accountants who approve or reject accounts," John Wiggins, the British auditor responsible for the procedure, said. "Our job is to set things out and say what we mean." It was up to the Commission and the member states, responsi-

ble for spending 80 per cent of the £62 billion budget, to put their house in order, he said.

André Middelhoeck, the chief of the Luxembourg-based auditors, reported that his team had detected £425 million of pointless spending, either on ineligible activities or programmes that did not meet their objectives. Spot-checks by the court's inspectors showed, for example, that millions were being handed out to Greek, Spanish and Italian fruit and vegetable growers for the destruction of non-existent crops.

Abuses, delays and fraud in the collection of taxes on goods in transit meant that £636 million in duty had been evaded in the four years to 1994. In one case, 25 tonnes of Argentine pasta disappeared without duty after being landed at Genoa and driven to Naples. Imported cigarettes and bananas also had a habit of vanishing, duty free, in transit.

The auditors estimated that 4 per cent of the budget, or £2.02 billion, was subject to "substantial errors". The Commission responded by saying that the court was applying a faulty yardstick. "Most of this money is eventually accounted for," one official said. "It is a grossly misleading impression to imply that these figures are representative of fraud."

Erkki Liikanen, the Budget Commissioner, pointed to tough controls imposed this year by Jacques Santer, the Commission President, and passed much of the blame to member states. He rejected a charge that the Commission had mislaid millions of pounds of computers and other equipment. None of the equipment was missing, he said.

Labour called last night for an urgent Commons debate into the fraud and mismanagement in the EU. Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, said the waste exposed by the auditors was incalculable. Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, responded: "We must fight fraud whether at home or abroad. The contribution that we make to the European budget cannot be wasted in this way."

Rotting crops that yield farmers a rich harvest

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

FRUIT and vegetable growers are being paid huge sums to withdraw surplus produce from the market even though it is in no state to be eaten, according to the report by the European Union's Court of Auditors.

Tomato growers in Spain, Italy and Greece are highlighted for receiving payments when the most cursory check should have shown that their produce was rotten and unfit for consumption.

"The costly system of withdrawal and destruction of surpluses to relieve the market of excess production and to ensure a minimum income for producers both encourages over-production and pollutes the environment," the auditors say.

The finding highlights the

difficulty of drawing a clear line in EU agricultural spending between fraud and the waste that is an integral part of the complex system of farm subsidies, which account for roughly half the union's £59 billion annual budget.

EU fruit and vegetable producers get subsidies worth more than £1.2 billion a year, entirely legally. Much of this money is spent on taking surplus produce off the market to maintain prices. Many Mediterranean growers deliberately grow too much, knowing they are guaranteed a price for their crop that is more than enough to recoup their costs.

Earlier this year, Tim Boswell, a junior Agriculture Minister, disclosed in the House of Commons that in

1993 the EU paid farmers £439 million for buying up and destroying nearly three million tonnes of surplus fruit and vegetables. British taxpayers contributed £57 million to the cost of the operation even though British farmers were responsible for producing only 34,000 tonnes of the surplus.

For years the EU has been spending about £900 million a year supporting vineyard production, much of which is spent on distilling vast quantities of undrinkable, low-grade wine into industrial alcohol.

Similar sums are spent on supporting tobacco production in Italy and Greece, which produce a crop so high in nicotine that most of it is unable to be sold in Western Europe.



Mr Godfrey beside the disputed display at his shop in Ilkeston yesterday

Council takes greengrocer to High Court over shop display

BY IAN MURRAY

A GREENGROCER'S battle with his local council for the right to display his fruit and vegetables on the pavement outside his shop reached the High Court yesterday. Derbyshire County Council is trying to make Brian Godfrey remove the 3ft wide display outside his shop in the old market town of Ilkeston, Derbyshire.

Mr Godfrey, 58, a former miner who bought the store with redundancy money ten years ago, claims he rents 18in of the pavement in front of his premises and therefore has the right to use it to display his goods. The council, however, insists he is causing a nuisance, creating a hazard for pedestrians, especially the blind, disabled and mothers with prams, and wants him to move everything inside the shop.

In January Mr Godfrey appeared before magistrates, accused of depositing goods on the highway, causing a nuisance. The magistrates decided that although his pavement display was an obstruction it was not a nuisance and that he should be allowed to keep it. Members of the public also expected to see goods displayed outside a greengrocer's shop

and there had been no accidents or complaints, the magistrates said.

Nicholas Burton, for Derbyshire County Council, which is appealing against the decision, argued in the High Court yesterday that the display was an obstruction and that by definition that constituted a nuisance.

Mr Godfrey, who was in court to defend his actions in person, has said that an adverse finding by the court could finish his business. The hearing continues.

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Price war pushes down cost of petrol

BY KEVIN EASON

BRITISH motorists are buying the cheapest petrol in Western Europe as the forecourt war between supermarkets drives down prices.

Figures from the AA yesterday showed that the latest average price of a litre of unleaded petrol was down to 52.1p (236.7p a gallon) as the cost of fuel dropped for the fourth consecutive month. Drivers in France were paying 75p a litre for unleaded at the start of this month, with filling stations in Germany charging on average 71.5p.

British drivers pay even less if they use supermarket forecourts where companies are waging a price war. Late last month Tesco and Sainsbury's guaranteed a maximum price of 49.9p a litre for unleaded. Prices around the country have fallen sharply as other retailers have tried to keep pace.

The AA said last night that there had also been some price-cutting in anticipation of possible Budget increases. British car companies fill the top and bottom slots in the sales performance league of European motor manufacturers published yesterday. Jaguar was the fastest growing carmaker, with sales up 51.4 per cent this year, according to the Association of European Automobile Manufacturers. Rover was the worst performer.

Censors urge help for parents over violent films

BY DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

FILM censors banned only six of the 3,500 videos submitted to them last year. However, they used their powers on several blockbusters, insisting on cuts before allowing their video release.

Quentin Tarantino's acclaimed *Pulp Fiction* was among films that had to be edited. But it was a minor cut, deleting a scene showing a heroin needle puncturing skin.

Some 6.5 per cent of the videos submitted have been cut at the request of the British Board of Film Classification. In a report published yesterday — only weeks after David Puttnam, the British film-maker, attacked the trend for violent movies — the board expressed concern over the effect of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994: every video must be scrutinised in case it falls into the hands of children.

The Earl of Harewood, its president, called for help for parents to control their children's viewing. Video labels and packaging should give clearer guidance, he said.

James Ferman, the board's director, said certificates could not ensure that teenagers were protected. "If there is no way to stop them watching something, we have to make it suitable."

For that reason, he said, cuts were made to *True Lies*,

starring Arnold Schwarzenegger. A spike in an eye, a hook in a stomach and someone's head being smashed into a urinal had to go. However, those cuts lasted a total of eight seconds. Mr Ferman said they were only removing "violent punctuation".

Lord Harewood said the board intended to interview violent offenders in custody to study the effects of violent videos. "We want to know to what extent their criminal background interacts with their viewing."

Other films that pushed at the censorship barriers were Oliver Stone's *Natural Born Killers*, about two serial killers who murder 100 people in the southern states of America. The film is alleged to have inspired actual killings in America and France. Lord Harewood said: "The board delayed its certification long enough to research the facts and found no significant basis for the claims."

Critics of films with gratuitous violence include Sir Sydney Samuelson, commissioner of the British Film Commission. He said: "I just don't understand why explicit violence is necessary. You can put so much across by way of imagination. You don't have to risk brutalising the minds of young people, those who do not yet have the maturity to accept that it's only a film."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Abortion warning to appeal judges

Three appeal judges reserved judgment yesterday in a test case brought by Sir Nicholas Lyell, the Attorney-General, who asked them to rule that a man who stabbed his pregnant girlfriend, causing the death of her baby, committed either manslaughter or murder.

Simon Haworth, QC, for the man, argued that no offence could be committed against an unborn child who was not legally recognised as a "person in being" at the time of the act. He added that the case would "open up a very difficult area" in relation to late abortions.

Girl, 12, raped

A 12-year-old girl was raped at knifepoint in an alley near Kensington High Street, west London, as she came home from school on Monday evening, police said. A passer-by chased the attacker, described as in his late 20s, but failed to catch him. Detectives are waiting to interview the girl who they said was extremely upset and traumatised by the attack.

Porn TV ban

The satellite service XXXTV — formerly known as TV Erotica — was effectively banned by the Government, Virginia Bottomley, the National Heritage Secretary, announced an order yesterday outlawing British supply of "smart cards" to unscramble its signal, listings or any advertising or support for the pornographic Swedish station.

Closure approved

Gillian Shepherd, the Education and Employment Secretary, confirmed that Hackney Downs School in east London was to close. Government-appointed experts have deemed it "impossible" to improve. Mrs Shepherd said she had listened to objections from parents but had decided the pupils would get a better education at nearby Homerton House School.

Libel challenge

A jury's right to decide the amount of libel damages was challenged in a test case launched in the High Court yesterday by the *Sunday Mirror*, which is appealing against an award of £350,000 to the pop star Elton John two years ago. The newspaper had admitted that it wrongly claimed the singer was following a starvation diet.

Migrant deadline

A High Court judge gave the Home Office two weeks to sort out how to send two Chinese illegal entrants home or he would free them from eight months in custody. Mr Justice Hidden said that if no satisfactory explanations were given he would probably grant the writs of *habeas corpus* they sought against Michael Howard, the Home Secretary.

£100 for slap boy

A shopkeeper was ordered to pay £100 compensation to a boy he slapped for throwing stones at the window of his store in Nottingham. Geoffrey Thibault, 41, admitted assault and was given a year's conditional discharge by Nottingham magistrates. He said: "I was in the wrong and accept my punishment, but I can't believe I have to pay the boy compensation."

GCHQ jobs cut

The Government's eavesdropping centre, GCHQ, is to axe one of its listening stations with the loss of 250 posts, it was announced yesterday. The Composite Signals Organisation Station at Culmhead, near Taunton, Somerset, which monitors communications for the Government, will shut by 1999. Less than half the workforce will be redeployed.

Shell rejects calls to leave Nigeria

Continued from page 1
an Liquefied Natural Gas meet in Lagos this morning amid expectations that the project will go ahead. A spokesman for Shell, the Anglo-dutch company which is a 24 per cent shareholder in the venture, said the project would benefit the people of Nigeria. "As far as we are concerned, there are no technical or commercial reasons why it should not go ahead."

The board meeting of Nigeria LNG will decide whether

to proceed with the construction of the plant on Bonny Island at the mouth of the Niger river. Shell explained yesterday that if the consortium misses the opportunity to go ahead, the project is likely to collapse. "The feeling is that it is now or never," one Shell executive said.

If the project is approved, held money will be released to the contractors under pre-agreed conditions. However, cancellation would mean returning the funds to the share-

holders and, by extension to a Nigerian Government that is desperately short of cash.

The commitment of the contractors is central to the need for the shareholders to make today's investment decision. The contract with the engineering companies expires next month and the price of the contract to build the plant, is critical to the economics of the project.

"We have a turnkey contract in place. We cannot extend it without going through a new

tendering exercise." A contract on less favourable terms could scupper the venture and delay might put at risk gas sales contracts agreed with companies in Spain, France, Italy and Turkey.

The LNG project is expected to create 6,000 local jobs during construction which is planned to be completed in four years.

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Shell claims up, page 29

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Royal Family chose television to improve its image, but the show has no end

Royal insights serve only to fuel public curiosity

By Alan Hamilton

WHEN *The Sunday Times* announced its serialisation of Andrew Morton's milestone biography of the Princess of Wales in 1992, Lord McGregor of Durris, then chairman of the Press Complaints Commission, complained of the media dabbles in the stuff of other people's souls.

He was obliged to change tack when, over a dinner table in Brussels, he was told by Viscount Rothermere, proprietor of the *Daily Mail*, that both the Prince and Princess were manipulating national daily newspapers with a view to having their respective sides of a marriage breakdown story conveyed to the public in sympathetic terms.

Lord Rothermere overstated the case, but his drift was not entirely wrong. Morton always denied that he interviewed the Princess, but there is no doubt she gave friends permission to talk to him. The reptilian world of the media has long been a foreign country to the Royal Family, a dangerous terrain inhabited by dragons and serpents of which, in this century at least, they long steered clear. But they have gradually learnt to use it, their preferred vehicle being television over newspapers in the perhaps naive belief that pictures are less prone to distortion than mere words.

Apart from Christmas TV broadcasts, the first tentative toe in the water of exposure was in 1969 when the Australian-born William Heseltine (now Sir William), then the Queen's assistant press secretary,



Andrew Morton and his bestselling book



persuaded his monarch that the best way to defuse opposition, much of it Welsh nationalist, to the investiture of Charles as Prince of Wales at Caernarvon would be to give the monarchy a more human face.

Tame and arch though it now looks, with shots of the Duke of Edinburgh cooking

sausages at a Balmoral barbecue, it was at the time epoch-making and a great public relations success.

Its long-term drawback has been that it whetted an appetite for personal detail which has become insatiable. Milestones in the Queen's life and reign have since been regularly marked by major television documentaries, informative enough on her work and role, but essentially reverential. The Queen has given occasional face-to-face interviews on the subject of horses, or her memories of VE-Day, but has had the good sense never to bare her innermost soul.

As for Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, she last gave an interview in 1923, when a hapless reporter from the *Daily Sketch* had ten unproductive minutes with her on the subject of her engagement. At one stage, the BBC proposed a major documentary on her life, and sent the veteran broadcaster Sir Ludovic Kennedy to conduct the preliminary discussions. When he ventured that the Abdication and the question of Mrs Wallis Simpson would be pivotal points in any serious film, the entire project went suddenly cold.

With documentaries on the life and work of the Queen, the Duke of York and other members of the Royal Family, the monarchy has learnt to use television as an effective corporate public relations tool — although the good work almost became dangerously undone with Prince Edward's ill-conceived *It's A Royal Knockout*, in which he and other members of his family made utter fools of themselves



TV times: Jonathan Dimbleby with the Prince of Wales last year and, below, the royal couple interviewed before their 1981 wedding

in the name of charity. Using television to press a personal royal suit is, however, another matter. Nine-tenths of Jonathan Dimbleby's documentary on the Prince of Wales for Central TV last year was an earnest examination of the man's boundless, but not always riveting, good works. The jewel, when revealed, was set amid great cushions of sympathetic padding: he had committed adultery with Camilla Parker Bowles.

The disclosure was not in itself a shock, for the tabloids had been raking the coals for

months beforehand: yet it was a shock to hear it from his own lips, and a shock that he should choose such a public platform as his confessional. The play undoubtedly worked; the programme was well-received, and the Prince attracted far more sympathy than opprobrium for what viewers saw as his decision to be so honest.

Now comes the counterblast. For several years the Princess has tried, without great success, to have her side of the story given a wider airing. Andrew Morton's book was sympathetic to her

viewpoint: since then she has tried to counter the battalions of righteousness at St James's Palace, whose function is to uphold the status quo. She has in particular tried to court the *Daily Mail*, with mixed results.

Next Monday, the Princess will have her revenge. A prurient public will watch riveted in its millions, and a few will wonder whether the washing of dirty royal linen in public has progressed a jot from the day in 1820 when King George IV employed bouncers to keep Queen Caroline out of his coronation.



Husband of building society manager 'plotted to kill her'

By Kathryn Knight

THE husband of a building society manager murdered her and then constructed an elaborate charade to convince police they were both victims of a gang of robbers, a court was told yesterday.

Gordon Wardell had trusted and gagged himself and inflicted bruises on his stomach after strangling his wife, Carol, dumping her body in a layby and robbing the building society branch where she worked. At the time he told police that he had been beaten unconscious and his wife abducted by robbers who broke into their home in Meriden, West Midlands.

But it was all false, Oxford Crown Court was told. "When he killed her, he put into effect an elaborate scheme, a deceit, quite simply to get away with murder," Richard Wakerley, QC, for the prosecution, told the jury. Mr Wardell, 42, denies murder.

The court was told that Mrs Wardell, 39, had worked a normal Saturday morning at the Nuneaton branch of the Woolwich building society on September 10 last year before returning home to entertain friends with her husband. Her body was found in a layby by a motorist on Monday morning. She was fully clothed with a single sandal lying beside her.

At about the same time, workers arrived at the building society to find Mrs



Gordon Wardell, centre, being driven to Oxford Crown Court yesterday to face a murder charge

Wardell was not there. The district manager was alerted and she used a master key to enter the premises. "In front of the safe were a whole load of papers scattered across the floor," Mr Wakerley said. "Then she saw in the customer area a sandal which she recognised as Mrs Wardell's. She thought something was radically wrong."

Only on seeing the matching sandal to the one found in the layby did police realise the two incidents were linked. "So far the defendant's scheme was working," Mr Wakerley said. "But it was all a charade to make it look as if it was robbers that killed her."

The gang-of-robbers theory appeared to be borne out when armed police entered the

Wardells' home and found Mr Wardell, clad only in his underpants, lying on his back, gagged and trussed to the metal frame of a rubbish sack holder in his living room. His hands were tied with plastic tape, his stomach was bruised and he appeared to be in some distress. "It was a remarkable sight," Mr Wakerley said.

The jury was told that the defendant had sat up when police entered the room. Mr Wakerley said: "He told them he had come home from the pub the previous evening and found some men in the house. 'What happened?' he was asked. 'Some men grabbed me when I came in and I woke up in the morning trussed.'"

Mr Wardell told police and ambulance men he had been

hit on the head and could remember nothing until waking that Monday at 10am. "He asked about the whereabouts of his wife. Officers understandably did not tell him she was dead," he told them. He last saw his wife when "she went off with the men who were there".

When Mr Wardell was taken to hospital in an ambulance, "he was calm, his blood pressure was within the normal range and his heartbeat was only slightly fast", Mr Wakerley said. "The prosecution aims to show that it was again part of a false scheme to induce police to believe that Carol had been killed by a gang of robbers who had taken her under force to the building society, leaving him unconscious and trussed up."

"We shall demonstrate how he tied and put the gag on himself, tied himself to the refuse sack holder, and the bruises were self-inflicted. He tied himself up after he had killed his wife and left her body in a layby, after he had visited the building society to create the scene of the robbery," the jury was told.

Photographs showed that the only sign of disturbance at the Wardells' house was in the living room, and the back and front doors had not been forced. Access to the building society had been gained by using Mrs Wardell's secret pin number.

The case continues.

Mother of left-alone children is jailed

A MOTHER who admitted "taking a chance" by leaving her three children at home alone while she flew to Benidorm for a holiday was jailed for a year yesterday.

Liverpool Crown Court was told that police went to her home in Kirkby, Merseyside, after a tip-off and found that her 12-year-old daughter had just cooked a meal of chips for her brothers aged seven and five.

The 30-year-old woman, who cannot be named for legal reasons, admitted three child abandonment charges.

Judge Wickham, Recorder of Liverpool, told her: "What you did was a serious crime against your children, putting your personal pleasure before their welfare. Good mothers don't take such chances. If you are not punished for leaving your children there will be a widespread sense of outrage."

The mother was arrested at Manchester Airport when she flew home from Alicante on September 2. She told police she had given the father £40 to mind the children, saying she had not been abroad or flown before and had been looking forward to the holiday and wanted to go.

When he did not arrive the night before her flight she had tried to get a friend to look after the children.

Rosemary West played strategic part in death of 10 women, says QC

By Bill Frost and Richard Duce

ROSEMARY WEST was the "strategist" behind the murder and mutilation of ten girls and young women including her daughter Heather, Winchester Crown Court was told yesterday.

Mrs West's claims to have known nothing of what happened to the victims flew in the face of all common sense, said Brian Leveson, QC.

In his closing speech, Mr Leveson, for the prosecution, described her as a "tough and resourceful woman with an extremely selective memory". He dismissed her protests of innocence as being "like the three brass monkeys. Rosemary West would have you believe that she saw no evil, heard no evil and spoke no evil. This flies in the face of all common sense."

Mr Leveson told the jurors that as the case against Mrs West unfolded they had "travelled to a place which plumbs the depths of human depravity". He said: "There is no doubt that the bodies were deliberately mutilated for reasons we can scarcely imagine."

He said the relationship between Rosemary and Frederick West was at the core of the case. He asked the jury to consider what the couple "knew of each other, what they did to others and how far each

was prepared to go". She was the strategist, said Mr Leveson. Even as a 15-year-old she had instructed West, 12 years her senior, on how they would conduct their life together. "She was as obsessed with sex as he was. On her own admission it was for fun," he told the jury.

West's death was the "greatest gift" he could give to his wife. His tape-recorded claims to be solely responsible for the deaths of the ten young women and girls had been a moment of high courtroom drama but "their value, we submit, was nil", Mr Leveson said. "He (Frederick West) was in a position of power and the police were unbelievably grateful and had to keep listening. But he lied again, again and again."

The murder of Charmaine West — Mrs West's step-daughter — had taken place while her husband was serving a prison term in 1971, said Mr Leveson. Mrs West's relationship with the seven-year-old had before her death been marked by "mutual aggression and antipathy".

Mr Leveson reminded the jury of evidence given by Anne Marie Davis, West's daughter by his first wife Rena, whose body was unearthed last year in a field 15 miles from

Gloucester. Anne Marie had been the victim of systematic abuse at the hands of both her father and stepmother, he said.

After being raped at the age of seven by West while Mrs West held her down, she had been told she should be "grateful and lucky to have such caring parents". The couple used the child as "a live toy — taking her out on the town and then raping her while at the height of their killing spree", said Mr Leveson. "Her evidence opened a window on the violent perversion displayed by the Wests on those they were subsequently to kill," he said.

He said any suggestion that the girls were killed elsewhere by West before being brought back to the house and dismembered "doesn't bear analysis."

"From the evidence you can conclude that she herself intended that each of these girls should die so as not to be able to go to the police or at the very least should suffer serious bodily harm. Even if the act which snuffs life out was her husband's, if she is participating that's murder."

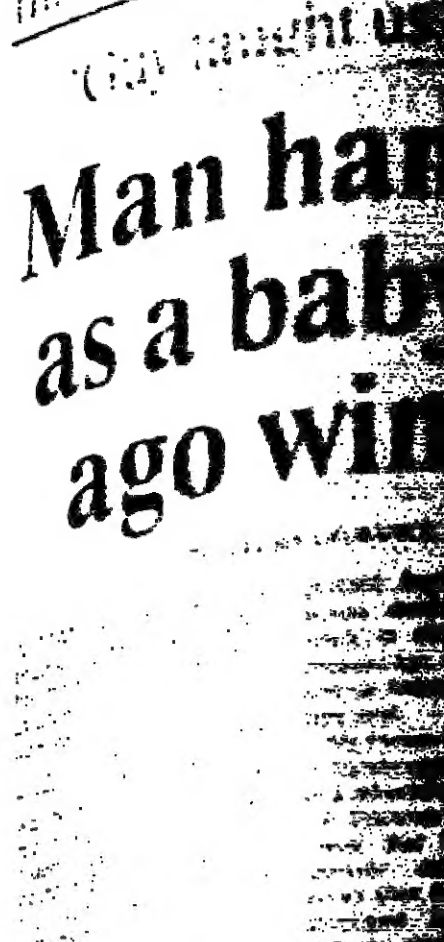
The case continues today when Richard Ferguson, QC, for the defence, will make his closing speech to the jury.

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'Guy taught us compassion but no money will make up for what he has been through'

Man handicapped as a baby 33 years ago wins £1.25m

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

A MAN who was severely brain-damaged a month after his birth 33 years ago was awarded £1.25 million damages yesterday.

Guy Parkes, who was normal and healthy when he was born on August 25, 1962, made legal history as the oldest medical negligence case heard in Britain. He received the award in an out-of-court settlement approved at Manchester High Court.

Medical defence experts ex-

pressed fears that the case would encourage other patients to enter claims from decades ago. This would have serious financial implications, they said.

Mr Parkes is now profoundly handicapped and confined to a wheelchair after his GP, Dr Francois Bosc, failed to notice that he had become severely dehydrated three weeks after birth. His mother developed breast abscesses and was concerned about her

capacity to continue breast-feeding. Dr Bosc reassured her and failed to note that the baby was becoming seriously unwell.

On September 17, 1962, he was admitted to hospital with severe dehydration secondary to gastroenteritis. He suffered brain damage and has lost the use of all four limbs. He also has epilepsy, a twisted spine and is doubly incontinent. He is aware of his surroundings but has limited powers of communication.

Ann Parkes, 55, who gave up her job as an accounts manager to look after her son, did not realise for more than 25 years that she could sue Dr Bosc. When Mr Parkes broke his leg at a residential care home in 1985 she took legal action and her lawyers, Alexander Harris, of Sale, Cheshire, asked why he was so disabled. The lawyers began investigations in 1989 before advising Mrs Parkes to sue over her son's disability.

After yesterday's hearing Mrs Parkes, of Willenhall, West Midlands, said: "Guy has taught us compassion and patience but no money will ever make up for what he has been through. We just struggled from day to day looking



Guy Parkes as he is today and as a baby. His GP failed to notice that he had become severely dehydrated

after him. We have had to give up what people call a normal social life. We never go out. When he was five we were told he would never be any different. That is hard for a woman of 27 or 28.

"His main achievement is being cheerful. He gives us inspiration. If ever we feel down, we go and be with him. This is money but it would be much nicer if Guy was able to get up and walk. I am bitter about the doctor. The apology in court was the first we have had."

Daniel Brennan, QC, representing Mr Parkes, told the hearing that the care provided by Mr Parkes's family had been exemplary and he was

expected to live for another 30 years. "The medical experts have never come across a case of a child like Guy who grew into manhood in such a condition," he said.

Mrs Parkes has cared for her son singlehandedly. Colin, her husband, has a back injury and cannot help. Mrs Parkes also looks after her 92-year-old mother, who is wheelchair bound.

Mr Justice Newman singled out Mrs Parkes for "commendation and admiration" and ordered that £150,000 of the award should go to her immediately for her past care of her son.

Dr Bosc, who is retired, admitted liability. His insur-

ers, the Medical Protection Society, will pay the bill. Dr Roy Palmer, medical director of the society, said: "It is a matter of concern that we are seeing litigation starting decades after the clinical incident. It is almost impossible to establish the facts two or three decades on. People die, emigrate, retire and their memories fade."

The annual subscription paid by GP members of the society in 1962 was less than £10. "Here we are 33 years later settling for upwards of £1 million. This creates a very serious funding problem."

Compensation for medical negligence claims is expected to cost the NHS £150 million

this year. Claims amounting to more than £1 billion are in the pipeline.

Fears about the rapidly rising cost of claims led the Health Department to set up the Clinical Negligence Scheme for NHS trusts last April. Trusts pay contributions according to their size and nature of their work, and the scheme pays out on claims against them, spreading the cost. Eight out of ten NHS trusts are members.

The previous oldest medical negligence case, two years ago, involved a man who was awarded £840,000 31 years after being brain-damaged in a hospital accident shortly after birth.



Ann and Colin Parkes. Mrs Parkes was praised in court for her singlehanded care of her son

Radio in the snow saves Britons from avalanche

By EDWARD GORMAN

TWO British backpackers who narrowly escaped death in Nepal's worst avalanche disaster were the first to alert the rescue services after finding a radio while desperately trying to dig for survivors.

The families of Charles Wright and James Ryan, both 22, said yesterday that the young men were just a few hours' walking distance from the thrust of the avalanche close to Everest, which killed at least 43 people including 17 foreign tourists.

The relatives spoke of their relief at hearing from the pair by telephone after a helicopter flew them to safety. Richard Wright, 58, a farmer from Beccles, Suffolk, said: "We were worried sick when we heard about the avalanche on the radio on Sunday because we knew Charles was in that area. It was a hell of a relief when he called to say he was all right." The two former



students, who met at London University, were on what their families called the holiday of a lifetime in the Nepalese Himalayas when the avalanche struck. They were camping in a remote mountain hut on Saturday with six other foreign trekkers when they were cut off by eight feet of snow.

After being stranded for two days and running out of food, Mr Ryan and Mr Wright, with a German and an Australian, set out for the hamlet of Gokyo at 18,000ft.

But when they arrived they found the huts had been covered by snow.

Tanja Wright, 23, who spoke to her brother by telephone from Nepal, said: "They found the huts flattened and no sign of survivors. But they dug in the snow and found the bodies of two Nepalese and a Japanese tourist."

Miss Wright said the men were amazed to find a radio set beside the bodies which still worked despite being buried under the snow. They used it to call for help. Miss Wright said: "If it had not been for the radio they could easily have died of starvation or hypothermia."

Mel Ryan, 62, a former Yorkshire cricketer from Almondsbury, West Yorkshire, said that his son was very fit and an experienced walker. He is now on his way back to Britain before flying to the Alps to start a winter job as a ski instructor.

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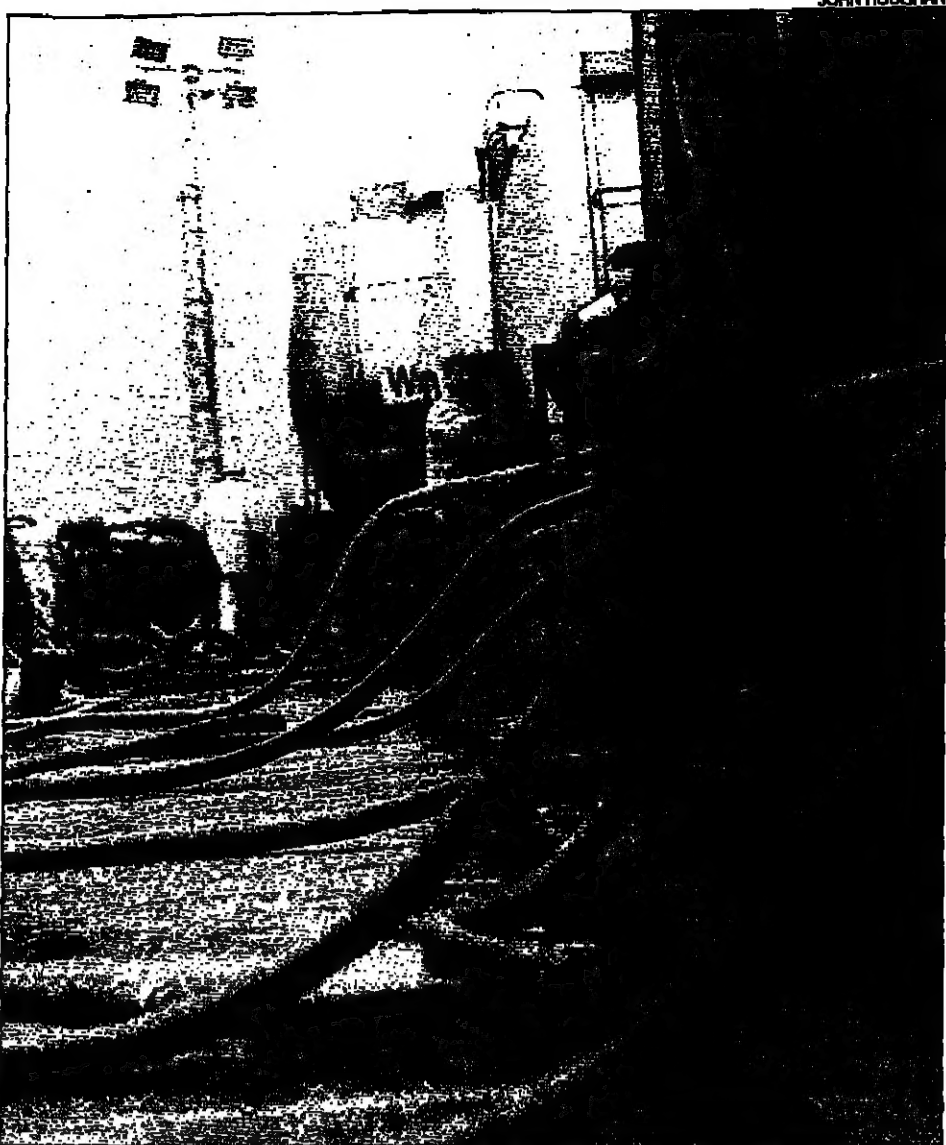
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Tankers delivering water to Scammonden Reservoir, West Yorkshire, yesterday

Government plans to pipe water to drought-hit area

By PAUL WILKINSON

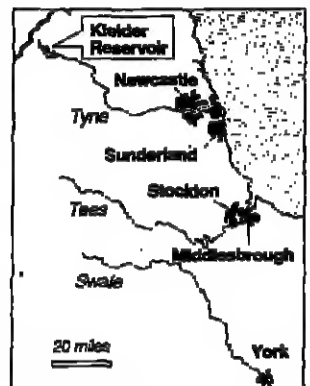
A PIPELINE linking Yorkshire with the abundant water supplies of northeast England is to be built to stave off future shortages affecting millions of consumers. But the link, announced yesterday by David Curry, an Environment Minister, at the end of a tour of the affected parts of West Yorkshire, will not stave off possible rota cuts.

The pipe would be used to top up Yorkshire reservoirs during the winter. The link will run ten kilometres from the River Tees in the Northumbrian Water Region to the River Swale in North Yorkshire. Mr Curry said that the Government would provide every facility to ensure that the pipeline would be operating within the shortest possible time.

It will enable Yorkshire Water, which so far this year has received less than half its average rainfall, to tap into the vast reserves of Kielder Water, Europe's largest man-made lake high in the Cheviots. Supplies from Kielder would be transferred via Northumbria's system into the Tees. Once it is pumped across to the Swale it can be fed into Yorkshire's water grid.

However, Yorkshire Water later said that the pipeline was only one of a number of "medium-term options" it was examining.

A Department of the Environment Inspector opened a public inquiry yesterday into



Yorkshire Water's application to cut supplies to Calderdale and Kirklees for 24 hours at a time. More than 250 objections have been received at the inquiry at Dewsbury Town Hall.

The company also announced compensation for customers who lose their supplies. On average a household will be given £2 a week plus a payment for inconvenience amounting to £15 a fortnight.

Recent rainfall in the area has meant that the cuts are unlikely to be enforced before the end of the month.

BY ANDREW PIERCE

LEAH BETTS, who remains critically ill in a coma after taking Ecstasy at her 18th birthday party had taken a tablet identical to one taken by thousands of British youngsters every week, it emerged last night.

Tests on the teenager, who collapsed at her home in the early hours of Sunday, showed that the Ecstasy tablet had not been contaminated. The medical results, which were unexpected, prompted a senior drugs officer last night to warn youngsters who take the Class A drug that they were "playing a deadly game of Russian roulette".

Leah, an A-level student at Basildon College, remained in a critical condition at Broxcliffe General Hospital, Chelmsford, Essex, last night. Her parents Paul and Jan, from Latchingdon, near Maldon, Essex, were at her bedside.

Mr and Mrs Betts, who wrote an open letter to parents the previous day warning them about the dangers of Ecstasy, faced the agonising decision of whether to turn off the life-support machine which is keeping their daughter alive. Leah cannot breathe unaided. There is no sign of brain stem activity.

Dozens of messages of sup-

port have flooded into the hospital for the couple. Mrs Betts, 46, is a nurse who specialises in drugs prevention. Her husband is a retired police inspector. Their powerful articulation of the dangers of teenage drug-taking has struck a chord in the country.

Dr Alasdair Short, a consultant physician at the hospital, said: "Leah remains critical." He said that tests conducted by the poisons unit at Guy's Hospital in London had shown that the only substance which had been identified was Ecstasy, a stimulant related to amphetamines.

He said there was no clear explanation of why the drug, which according to conservative estimates is taken by thousands of British youngsters every week, had had such a devastating effect on Leah. He said: "Nobody has a huge experience of Ecstasy. Certainly there have been previous episodes of sudden collapses following the taking of Ecstasy. Abnormal or strange reactions are known, the reasons for them are not."

The doctor said the tests also showed that Leah had not had an allergic reaction to the drug. Inspector Dave Perry, head of the drug education unit at Essex Police, said: "Thousands of young people



Leah Betts' parents face an agonising dilemma

must take the drug every weekend if our seizures are anything to go by. The Ecstasy problem is under-reported. There are a lot more instances of brain damage and deaths. A lot of get away with it, some don't."

"It's like playing Russian roulette. Some people have an allergy-type reaction to the drug, they take it and can have these disastrous effects. Some people can take it many times before they have a reaction."

Earlier this year the drugs education unit had a campaign in Essex, which included summer camps. The police are continuing to look for the dealer who supplied the

Young people 'playing Russian roulette'

Coma girl's Ecstasy pill was not contaminated

Teenage dealer at rave venue is jailed

drugs. An Essex Police spokesman, asked whether the dealer would face attempted murder charges, said: "It is within the realms of possibility. It is for the prosecution to decide."

Police officers are planning to return to Raquel's, a Basildon nightclub that is believed to be the source of the supply of drugs. Five people aged between 17 and 19 have been bailed by Essex Police as they piece together the supply chain. Leah and a friend picked up the drugs in Basildon after she finished work at a shop last Saturday.

She took the tablet, about the size of an aspirin, at 8.30pm while her parents were in a neighbouring room. She collapsed at 1.30am. A friend who took one from the same batch was unaffected.

Leah probably simply overheated as she danced, a forensic scientist said yesterday. The single dose of Ecstasy, combined with the heat of the room, the excitement and the exercise can be a potentially lethal combination. Jim McInally said: "The core temperature of her body would have been raised to the level where it cannot get rid of it. It seems a classic case where all the organs fail — like someone dying of thirst in the desert."

Letters, page 17

Every illegal maker has a recipe — there is no unadulterated dose



Dr Thomas Stuttard

nausea can be particularly dangerous, as in that state the person may inhale vomit and be asphyxiated.

After taking Ecstasy the blood pressure as well as the temperature can rise dangerously. If the blood pressure becomes too high the patient may suffer a stroke and thereafter permanent brain damage.

It is uncertain whether the side-effects suffered by Leah Betts, which have effectively knocked out her brain stem, was caused by a stroke, or from cerebral ischaemia, oxygen starvation of the brain, while unconscious.

Ecstasy, like any of the amphetamines, is taken because it produces a feeling of euphoria, self-esteem is

boosted and sexual confidence gained. There are reports of it producing psychosis, kidney and liver failure, and depression.

The disastrous effects often reported with Ecstasy are sometimes attributed to it having been adulterated, as police at first thought might have been the case with Leah Betts. Since no reputable pharmaceutical firm manufactures methylenedioxymethamphetamine, its proper name, there is no benchmark for a standard tablet.

The term adulterated therefore does not apply, as all the drugs marketed will be made to the recipe of the individual, illegal manufacturer. Inevitably, the active component of

an Ecstasy tablet will be mixed with a substance that should be inert but which, although it provides body for the tablet, is chosen so that it will dissolve easily in the stomach but does not crumble in the pocket.

People buying Ecstasy tablets should be aware that the black marketeer will have no consideration other than to make a profit and secure a regular market. That will usually ensure some degree of caution because the trader will want to retain his customers. There is no other guarantee for the drug's safety.

Ecstasy can also be mixed with other mood changing drugs to obtain an enhanced reaction. It is recorded that phenelzine, therefore probably other similar drugs, can react dangerously with Ecstasy. Martindale, the standard textbook of pharmacology, recalls a case in which a mixture of phenelzine and Ecstasy produced coma, after some diverse and very distressing physical and mental symptoms, within 15 minutes.

A DRUG-DEALER who sold Ecstasy at a rave venue was yesterday jailed for four years.

Charles Partridge, 19, had admitted supply Ecstasy and amphetamines at Hanger 13 in Ayr and at his home in Irvine, Strathclyde, between April 1 and August 31 last year. He also admitted possessing cannabis.

Sentencing him, Lord Milligan said: "You were a vital link in an evil trade which can wreck lives." The High Court at Kilmarnock had been told that Partridge sold Ecstasy tablets to young people at the nightclub at £12 a time.

Partridge, a joiner whose father had died, did not get on with his mother's new partner. He had been staying near Hanger 13 and drifted into the drug scene.

After a social inquiry report, Lord Milligan, told Partridge he was taking into account his age, family life, previous record and that he had been used. But he added: "You yourself were preying on vulnerable young people very much your own age. You were involved in the supply of hard drugs for profit."

Partridge was given four years' detention for supplying Ecstasy and three years for supplying amphetamines, to run concurrently. He was admonished for possessing cannabis resin.

The venue gained notoriety after incidents unrelated to the Partridge case in which three people died after going to raves there. They had taken Ecstasy. The Fulham footballer Anthony Finnigan was cleared of drug-dealing yesterday. Southwark Crown Court was told that Finnigan, 33, who denied possessing one kilogram of heroin with intent to supply, had earlier admitted possessing 0.35g of heroin for his personal use.

Finnigan was allowed unconditional bail, pending reports, on the possession charge. Susan Ellis, 27, who admitted possessing the kilogram of heroin with intent to supply, is to be sentenced on Friday.

A conference of drugs squad officers heard yesterday that the sale of "home-grown" cannabis raised with advanced techniques and using potent strains was increasing. In the first nine months of 1994, police raided 60 illegal laboratories.

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Woman denies pet cemetery fraud

A PET cemetery owner denied yesterday that she charged dog-lovers for ornate caskets and then buried their animals in rags.

Freda Cunningham, who ran the Pet Care Crematorium at her farm in Weston upon Trent, Derbyshire, insisted that she provided the coffins but that a man who carried out the burials must have ignored her instructions. Mrs Cunningham, 54, denies seven charges of deception involving £960.

Derby Crown Court has been told that owners paid up to £185 to have their pets buried in caskets. When the bodies were exhumed after part of Mrs Cunningham's land had been repossessed, no coffins were found. The animals had been buried in rags, old coats, bin-liners or nothing at all.

Mrs Cunningham told the court that a gravedigger collected the dead pets from her hallway. "Very occasionally my husband would deal with the bodies, but there was another person. His name I don't really know — I always knew him as Jimmy Macey. He would come to the house about three times a week, usually at night."

"I used to leave the corpses in the hall for him, with a book with instructions." The man would then put the animals' bodies in a wheelbarrow and take them to the cemetery. "I always provided a coffin, and it is very distressing to think they were buried without one. I have to confess that Jimmy does not seem to have carried out the instructions."

The trial continues.

Highlands tenants lose bid for estate

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

TENANTS and conservationists have lost their attempt to buy a stake in one of Scotland's most isolated sporting estates.

The 16,500-acre Knoydart Estate in the West Highlands has been bought by a Scottish investment company which is believed to have paid close to the £15 million asking price. News came on the same day that the late Sir Nicholas Fairbairn's Dunfermline castle, Fordell, went to an unnamed Scottish buyer for more than £500,000. There had been concern that both would have overseas owners.

The new owner of Knoydart, Kinloch Investment, was said to want a traditional estate run in co-operation with the community. Conservationists had hoped that the local Knoydart community, backed by the theatrical impresario Cameron Mackintosh and the conservation organisations The John Muir Trust and the Chris Brasher Trust, would be successful in their offer.

But yesterday Bernie Emery, one of the members of the foundation, said he was not disappointed. "We are looking forward to meeting the new owners and getting on with them. We always said we would be perfectly happy with a good owner."

The estate is being sold by the textile company Titaghor Jute, whose chairman Reg Brealey bought it for £1.7 million in 1993.

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Policeman carried £500,000 in bag for The Scream

By JOHN YOUNG

AN UNDERCOVER detective from Scotland Yard's art squad travelled to Norway with £500,000 in a bag to help to recover *The Scream*, Edward Munch's stolen masterpiece, a court was told yesterday.

Norwegian police sought assistance after the painting had been offered for sale in London. The alleged thieves were arrested while a supposed deal was being negotiated at a hotel. The famous work—valued at more than £30 million—

was found undamaged in a cellar. The detective was giving evidence at Bow Street Magistrates' Court, central London, which has been turned effectively into a branch of Oslo city court this week so that the identities of two British police officers can be protected.

Four men are on trial in Oslo in connection with the theft but witnesses are not permitted to give evidence anonymously in Norway.

The Scream was stolen from the National Gallery in Oslo on February 12 last year. The detective, known to the court as Sidney

Walker and hidden from the public seats by screens, said that just over two months later, on April 22, he was told to travel to Oslo on May 5 with £500,000 in a bag. After three days, two Norwegian police officers appeared at the Grand Hotel in the city and the money was handed to them.

On Monday this week, the court was told that Mr Walker's police colleague—given the alias of Chuck Roberts—had travelled to Oslo posing as a representative of the Gesty Museum in California. Yesterday Mr Walker was asked

by Fridtjof Feudt, for the defence, whether it was ever explained to him why British, rather than Norwegian, policemen should have supplied the money.

"I don't know, sir," he replied. "I was given my instructions and I conveyed the money to Oslo. It was not an unusual request."

Mr Walker said that Detective Chief Inspector John Butler, head of the art and antiques squad, had not specified why the precise sum of £500,000 was required. Nor did he know whether it meant a ransom sum had been fixed in

advance. Mr Walker was asked if he would have expected an "arresting team" of Norwegian police to have met him at the hotel, rather than just two officers. He replied that he had been involved in a number of similar operations in Britain and that he would expect at least six officers, perhaps eight or even ten. Instead he had been met by just two officers with a bag in which he thought they had been carrying sandwiches.

"That is not meant facetiously, because they were brave men," he added. "They found themselves in

an extremely difficult position and they behaved very well."

Since August four men have been on trial: Paul Enger and William Aashheim deny theft, and Bjorn Grytdal and Jan Olsen deny handling stolen property.

A spokesman for the Lord Chancellor's Office said that it was not uncommon for witnesses in foreign cases to be allowed to give evidence in their home countries to save expense. A British stipendiary magistrate is conducting this week's hearing, which continues today.



Detail from *The Scream*

Tycoon's widow says son was heir to publishing empire

Kevin 'broke down' when Maxwell was found dead

By EMMA WILKINS

KEVIN MAXWELL broke down and wept on hearing the news that his father's body had been found at sea, the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday.

Pandora Maxwell, Kevin's wife, said her late father-in-law was a bright figure with whom Kevin sometimes found it difficult to work. But when a news bulletin in November 1991 announced that a body had been found off the Canary Islands, he was greatly distressed. "He came home late that evening... he said a body had been found, and he broke down and wept. It was the only time he did."

Her evidence was followed by testimony from Elizabeth Maxwell, Robert Maxwell's widow. She said her late husband had groomed his children to take over his business but, when they suc-

ceeded, he resented their challenge to his authority.

Kevin Maxwell, 36, his brother Ian, 39, and Larry Trachtenberg, 42, a former financial adviser, deny conspiring to defraud Maxwell pensioners by misusing £22 million of Teva shares. Kevin Maxwell also denies a charge relating to Schex shares worth £100 million.

Pandora Maxwell told the court that her husband had wanted to leave the business to avoid his father's control. "We could never really be specific about when, but it was his intention in 1991 to leave in 1992. He wanted in a sense to be free, to be able to allow us all to lead a more normal life."

She also spoke about the morning of her husband's arrest at their home in Chelsea in June 1992. "This was 6.30 in the morning. I didn't see any need to wake the children, but the police insisted on searching the house, including the children's bedrooms."

Elizabeth Maxwell, 74, said Kevin had been groomed by his father. "Bob felt that Kevin would really be the heir apparent because he felt that among our children he was the most able to take charge of a big organisation. He had a very good brain, an ability to grasp the essentials of a business situation and the complexities of corporate problems."

"Although towards the end Bob talked of retiring, it was obvious that he resented any power next to him, and in a peculiar way, although he was grooming his children to succeed him, he resented any initiative that they took."

She said her relationship



Pandora and Kevin Maxwell leaving court after her evidence yesterday

with her husband had been extremely strained since he told her in 1990 that he wanted a separation. However, he found himself unable to carry out his decision and remained friendly towards her.

Josuha Hiss, a pathologist who carried out the autopsy on Maxwell's body, said in a written statement that it was unlikely the tycoon had committed suicide. "It's more likely that he fell involuntarily into the sea either as a result of an accident or homicide."

Examinations showed that his left shoulder muscle had been subjected to "extraordinary and considerable strain" and it was likely that his body had been suspended from, or forced on to, his left hand. The evidence suggested that he had not been in the sea when this happened.

Jane Ward, physiology lecturer at the United Medical and Dental Schools of Guy's & St Thomas's hospitals, said it was possible that Maxwell might have fainted while urinating over the side of his boat. This was a recognised symptom associated with tiredness, drinking alcohol, waking at night and chest infections—Maxwell had a cold at the time.

The trial continues.

Seven acquitted of fraud after nine-month trial

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

A TAX fraud trial at the Old Bailey ended yesterday after nine months and at a cost of £6 million with the acquittal of all seven defendants.

The jury, which had been reduced to nine members after one was arrested for fraud, another fell ill and a third discovered he knew someone in the case, reached unanimous verdicts.

The trial began in February and had been due to last three months. Each defendant was represented by two counsel and the prosecution team had three barristers.

The length and expense of the trial and its eventual outcome will fuel the arguments now being considered by the Home Secretary to abolish juries for complex fraud trials. There is growing support for the move from

senior legal figures, including Sir Nicholas Lyell, QC, the Attorney General, and George Staple, director of the Serious Fraud Office.

Stewart Lawson-Rogers, prosecuting on behalf of Customs and Excise, had alleged that Robert Howes, a businessman, avoided paying £3 million in VAT by selling gold smuggled into the country in modified waistcoats. The gold was said to have been melted down to make it seem like scrap gold from old jewellery and, when it was sold on, Mr Howes allegedly avoided paying tax.

The other six defendants, all company partners or directors, had been accused of helping Mr Howes to produce fake documentation to authenticate his dealings. The defendants denied charges of

cheating the public revenue in the period 1992-93 and said they were honest traders.

The acquitted men are Mr Howes, 56, of Clapton, east London, Gary Singleton, 32, of Dronfield, Derbyshire, Viday Jogle, 44, of Northwood, west London, Colin Grafton, 54, of no fixed address, Gonen Haeems, 31, of Tottenham, north London, Michael Ansell, 55, of Hove, East Sussex, and Colin Beesley, 46, of Surbiton, Surrey.

Earlier this year a judge discharged a jury in an £8.5 million fraud trial after ruling that the evidence was too complex for it to understand. A committee of officials from five departments was set up in 1992 to examine the difficulties caused by long criminal trials. It is still sitting but has not published any report.



1115

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DOES YOUR GAS BILL LEAVE YOU COLD?

The Queen's Speech to Parliament this morning will be largely irrelevant either to the state of Britain or to the fortunes of the Tory party. Even more than usual, it will be about departmental pride and political symbolism. The Prime Minister and his advisers will argue that the whole is more than the sum of the parts: that there is a coherent theme demonstrating the Government's vitality and a sharply different approach from Labour.

Such propaganda will no doubt be forgotten as soon as it is uttered. Today's list of measures will, with a couple of exceptions, be thin. This is in part because we

are now in the fourth year of the Parliament after the main manifesto pledges have been implemented. The Government's single-figure majority is not in itself much of a constraint since, apart from European issues and VAT on domestic fuel, the Government has had little trouble getting its legislation approved. Nonetheless, Tory business managers are reluctant to reopen party divisions and at least risk the threat of a revolt.

The Queen's Speech is anyway less important in the life of any Government than the ritual implies. This is because legislation is seldom central to a Govern-

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

The last Queen's Speech which had a crucial political significance was in November 1991 with the Bill to replace the poll tax with the council tax. It was only when it became law that John Major felt able to call the 1992 election. There have been important measures such as last year's reform of shopping hours on Sundays, the introduction of the National Lottery and rail privatisation, as well as innumerable Bills on criminal justice and social security and

measures tidying up education and health changes. But few have had much bearing on the Tories' overall political standing or had any discernible impact on their party's poll ratings.

Later this morning, the Government will announce measures introducing vouchers for nursery schools, extending borrowing powers of grant-maintained schools, relaxing rules on cross-media ownership and setting up digital television, deregulation, divorce reform, asylum seekers and illegal immigrants, disclosure of evidence in criminal trials and housing.

The Tories will challenge Lab-

or to oppose the education and Home Office measures in order to highlight party differences over parental choice, law and order and immigration. The intention is to "test" Labour and put the Tories on the politically popular side of these issues.

Today's speech, and the exchanges in the Commons this afternoon between John Major and Tony Blair, will be merely a warm-up for the Budget on November 28. Since the introduction two years ago of the unified Budget bringing together decisions on public spending and taxation, the last Tuesday in November has become the most

The Tories' current low poll ratings reflect the tax-raising Budgets and public-spending squeezes of the past two years far more than the largely forgotten Queen's Speeches. Hence, most Tory MPs are pinning their hopes on Kenneth Clarke's Budget statement, rather than the Queen's Speech, and on their growing belief that the Treasury's caution has been overridden by the political need to show that the Government has made a start on cutting income tax.

PETER RIDDELL

Ministers strive to push Labour on the defensive

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

THE Government will try to regain the political initiative today by unveiling a series of Bills chosen to put Labour on the defensive over education, crime and housing. The run-up to the general election.

Fifteen substantial measures will be announced in the Queen's Speech, heralding the last full legislative programme before John Major goes to the country. It will provoke a bitter clash between Mr Major and Tony Blair after the new session is opened. Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, gave a foretaste yesterday when he said the new programme would show "another lurch to the Right".

Well-trailed Bills providing for a clampdown on bogus asylum seekers, the introduction of nursery education vouchers, fresh encouragement for grant-maintained schools and changes to rules on the disclosure of evidence in the courts are believed by ministers to be highly popular with the public but likely to be opposed by Labour.

A housing Bill that will end the automatic right of single mothers to have priority on waiting lists, measures expected later in the year to cut down

on red tape and Budget plans to make it easier for businesses to pay their taxes are all designed to "flush out" Labour. Tory sources said.

Tory MP Mr Major said that the programme established the Tories as the only party "firmly in the Centre-Right of politics". He told the Carlton Club: "Our programme will extend choice in our schools, step up the fight against crime and foreshadow further measures to turn Britain into the enterprise centre of Europe."

The sharply political flavour of the programme became clear when a senior political source said that it would "challenge and expose the gap between the rhetoric and reality of the Labour party". The source said that after Tony Blair's "warm words" to the CBI conference it would be interesting to see whether Labour voted for deregulation and lowering the burdens on business. Labour claimed to be the party of law and order; it would be interesting to see whether it voted for changes designed to ensure that guilty people were convicted.

The two Bills being introduced by Gillian Shepherd,

The Education Secretary, introducing nursery vouchers and extending the borrowing powers of grant-maintained schools, will be fiercely opposed. The Tories intend to exploit the support of Labour frontbenchers, including Mr Blair, for grant-maintained schools if the party votes against measures to increase their attraction to parents.

A Tory source said that the speech had been drawn up to put Labour on the spot. "It contains populist measures. Rather than radical right measures. But they all matters on which Labour, on past form, is likely to vote against."

Labour immediately retaliated. A source said: "The Tories are already admitting, before it has even been delivered, that the Queen's Speech has nothing to do with the needs of the country and is solely about party politics. It is a cynicism that will explode in their faces. No wonder this will be one of the thinnest Queen's Speeches on record."

Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, will have three Bill in the programme: one cutting down on applications for asylum, another giving M15 now-



Virginia Bottomley address will include her Broadcast

ers to help the police in fighting organised crime, and a *third changing evidence rules* that police believe at present favour the defence.

The other main Bills include a broadcasting measure intro-



...sing the CBI conference yesterday, which will relax rules introduced by Virginia Bottomley, the National Heritage Secretary, to relax the rules on cross-media ownership and set up digital television.

MPs are expected to get a free vote on one of the most



Friday. The Queen's Speech on cross-media ownership

contentious measures, the divorce law reform Bill which Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, has managed to get into the programme in spite of opposition from several Tory MPs.

Although 16 frontline jets were badly damaged while being modified, Ministry of Defence officials failed to notice and paid for eight of the aircraft after relying purely on the contractors' paperwork.

In a report the Commons Defence Select Committee criticises MoD's failure to detect faults in the aircraft before they became unsafe. The faults were discovered only when a technician spotted them by chance. The report says that the costs should be recovered from the firm, adding that it would be "monstrous if the taxpayer was out of pocket as a result of this debacle".

The Tornados were damaged in 1993 during service work by Dorset-based Airwork, now part of Short Brothers, which won the contract after underpricing British Aerospace's £11 million bid by £4 million. BAE was awarded the contract to repair the damage earlier this year.

Menzies Campbell, Liberal Democrat defence spokesman and a member of the committee, said: "Inadequate supervision of contracts of this kind, not only costs money, but could have cost lives".

who turn their backs on the wealthiest 5,000 earners at the expense of tax cuts for millions of workers. Abolishing the tax on inheritance profits would cost £3 billion a year – equivalent to 1.5p off income tax – by 2000.

Mr Brown said it would mean 5,000 people a total of £596 million a year, or £119,000 each. He denounced John Major's pledge to end the tax as further evidence of a Tory "lurch to the right".

The Prime Minister told the Tory party conference last month that he would end both capital gains and inheritance tax "when affordable". Although that is a long-term objective, Labour warned the Chancellor not to move towards abolition in this month's Budget. Mr Brown said that only one taxpayer in 300 would gain from abolition, which would cost £1.65 billion a year in lost revenue at present rates and £3 billion in five years.

Michael Jack, the Financial Secretary to the Treasury, said: "By opposing our policy to abolish tax on capital gains, Gordon Brown has shown once again that Labour is against enterprise and against the creation of wealth."



Virginia Bottomley addressing the CBI conference yesterday. The Queen's Speech will include her Broadcasting Bill, which will relax rules on cross-media ownership

RAF jets damaged by contract company

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

Tory tax plan will 'help the wealthy'

GOVERNMENT plans to scrap capital gains tax will bring about the biggest shift of wealth to the elite this century, *Labour* said yesterday (*Arthur Leathley* writes).

Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, said that the move would mean huge benefits for the wealthiest 5,000 earners at the expense of tax cuts for millions of workers. Abolishing the tax on investment profits would cost £3 billion a year — equivalent to 1.5p off income tax — by 2000.

Mr Brown said it would save 5,000 people a total of £596 million a year, or £119,000 each. He denounced John Major's pledge to end the tax as further evidence of a Tory "lurch to the Right".

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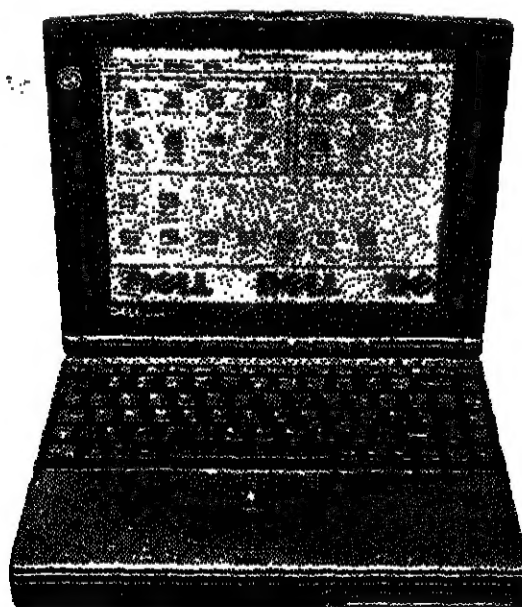
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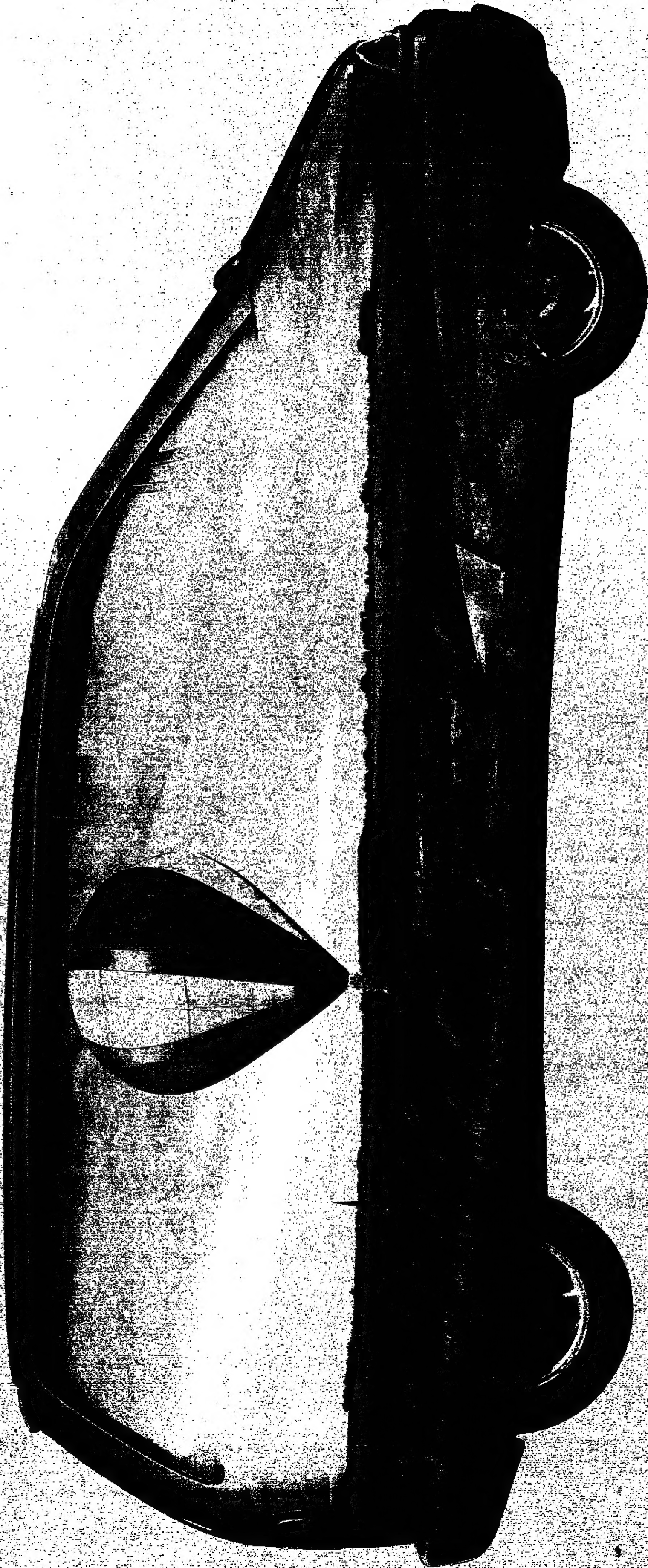
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Shell blan
Rupture
'left to
Ogoni

Teenager
jailed for
murder of
Briton

Row heats up

Shell blames environmental damage on saboteurs and voices fears for repair teams

Ruptured pipelines 'left to destroy Ogoni farmland'

By Sam Kiley
AFRICA CORRESPONDENT

AN HOUR'S walk from the dirt road, in barefoot to avoid army trackers on the lookout for boot prints, we came across what the Ogoni leaders were calling "Shell Oil's latest little atrocity".

A spuming arc of greenish-yellow oil squirting 20 yards into the sky from a cracked pipeline connection covered vegetation and abandoned houses in a film of brown goo, rendering the land barren, and gagging local farmers with the stench.

"Sabotage," said a Shell spokesman in the Rivers State capital of Port Harcourt. "We cannot send people to repair the line because they fear they will be attacked by the locals."

No matter how popular Ken Saro-Wiwa, the executed environmentalist, might have been among his Ogoni tribesmen, it is difficult to imagine a couple of farmers deep in the bush trying to poison their land by showing poles under a high-pressure oil pipeline and cracking its joints at his, or any one else's, request.

Since 1990, when 80 people were killed and 495 houses set on fire by the Nigerian Army after Ogoni demonstrators protesting at Umuochi were confronted with teargas and bullets, there has been evidence of close collusion between Shell and the Nigerian military regimes of first, General Ibrahim Babangida, and later General Sani Abacha, to

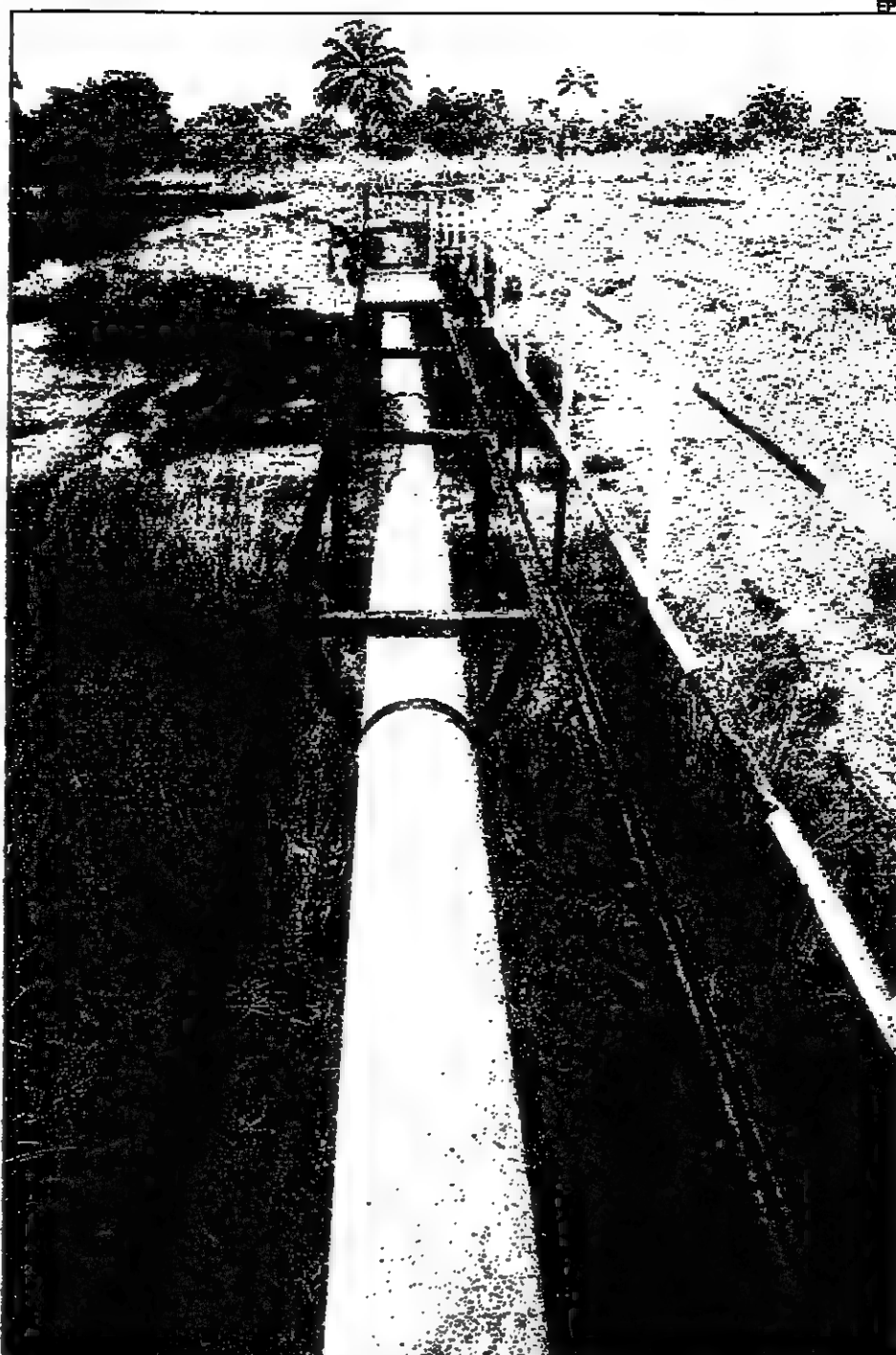
Lagos: Nigeria said British Shell's manager for eastern Nigeria, on another occasion in April 1993, Willbros, an American contractor was commissioned by Shell to bulldoze crops to make way for another pipeline through Ogoni farmland — without conducting any kind of environmental impact survey. This is required by law in Europe and most of the rest of the world. Several people were wounded when police opened fire on villagers from Biara trying to block the progress of the bulldozers.

A mother aged 25 was shot in the arm. When I met her the arm was hanging from a gangrenous shoulder. "I dare not see a doctor because they would find the bullet wound. I dare not see Shell for compensation for the same reason. Here it is better to risk a silent death than let the authorities know you exist," she said.

After this incident, a Willbros representative wrote to Shell's Mr Odofia, saying that "fortunately there was a military presence to control the situation and to offer protection to the workers and equipment".

Shell has said that it wants to stay out of the Ogoni crisis and would favour closer links with community leaders. However, executives say what money they have contributed most often ends up in the pockets of the military.

Simon Jenkins, page 16
Shell claims up, page 29



A Shell pipeline passes through Ogoniland, where farmers complain that leaks are left unrepaired and make their land barren. They claim that one major leak lasted 40 days

ANC launches campaign to tackle Nigeria's 'forces of fascism'

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN JOHANNESBURG

IN A throwback to the anti-apartheid struggle, the African National Congress yesterday joined hands with a broad spectrum of groups representing millions of South Africans to launch a campaign to confront the "forces of fascism" in Nigeria and press for democracy.

Cheryl Carolus, the ANC's Deputy Secretary-General, said that the ANC, trade unions, sports organisations and church groups, had formed the South African-Nigerian Democracy Support Group to develop a programme of action to end military rule. The group is discussing a range of punitive measures with Nigerian democracy activists, including the banning of Nigeria from the Olympic Games in Atlanta next year and an oil embargo.

The initiative comes as pressure mounts on the Government, particularly President Mandela, to take a firm lead and match tough talk with tough action. Church leaders yesterday called for economic sanctions to be imposed in six months if the military Government has not begun restoring democracy. Leading the call for sanctions, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, who will act as spokesman for the group, has promised to be a "nuisance" in putting pressure on Mr Mandela to act against the Nigerian Government.

Mr Mandela has come under fire for his "constructive engagement" policy towards Nigeria, a stance that the ANC berated Britain for adopting with the apartheid regime.

The Government has been stung by accusations of hypocrisy by Nigerian activists who have noted that the ANC benefited from international action to isolate the apartheid regime, but has failed to endorse tough action that would lead to Nigeria's isolation.

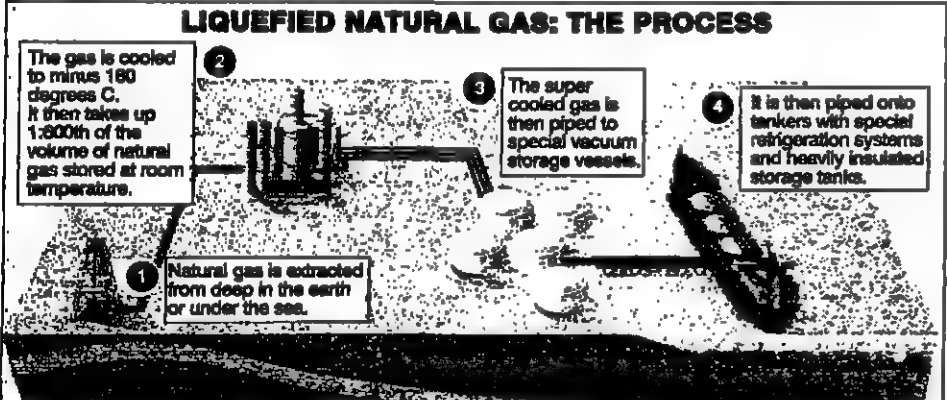
Ariz Pahad, the Deputy Foreign Minister, yesterday dampened hopes for a radical short-term shift in government policy when he confirmed that they are not prepared to take the lead in calling for sanctions. He said that South Africa lacked the economic clout to bring the necessary pressure. He said that those countries with more substantial trade links, namely the United States which buys half Nigeria's oil, were better placed. He added that South Africa must not be seen to be "grandstanding" and would explore punitive action through the United Nations and the Committee of Eight, which was formed at the Commonwealth heads of government meeting in Auckland, New Zealand.

Ms Carolus was also cautious and said a decision would not be announced until after consultations with democracy groups in Nigeria. The support group, meanwhile, will organise protests against the Nigerian diplomatic mission, beginning with a march to the Johannesburg consulate on Friday led by Archbishop Tutu. Hundreds of Nigerians carrying a paper coffin and shouting "Abacha is a murderer" have already demonstrated outside the consulate.

□ Cape Town: Amnesty International yesterday accused South Africa of failing to take a strong enough stand against Nigeria's military rulers.

"South Africa... lacks a clear vision of how the principles and commitment to human rights will inform and shape its foreign policy," Pierre Sane, the Secretary-General of the London-based human rights group, said at the end of a three-week visit.

He said South Africa should have taken a stronger line before the execution last week of Ken Saro-Wiwa, the writer, and eight other human rights activists. "We believe that if a stronger and louder voice had come much beforehand... maybe we could have avoided this tragedy," (Reuters)



Super-cool gas goes a long way

LIQUEFIED natural gas is super-concentrated natural gas used in scores of countries and highly popular in Japan and North America (Nick Nuttall writes).

Researchers at British Gas said yesterday that a cup full can run a gas ring for about four hours. It is identical to the gas piped into homes in Britain from the North Sea, but cooled to about minus 160C. This enables it to be

shipped round the world very efficiently because at these temperatures the gas occupies one sixth-hundredth of the volume of gas at room temperature.

A spokesman for British Gas said: "One 20,000 tonne liquefied natural gas tank contains the equivalent of 25 million cubic metres of gas. Seven such tanks contain the equivalent of all the gas consumed in Britain on an

average day." It is extricated from reservoirs under the ground or the seabed and brought to the surface before being cooled.

A spokesman for Shell said that at the proposed plant in Nigeria the gas would be piped to a storage terminal and then on to tankers. The tankers have refrigeration systems and storage tanks have heavy insulation lagging.

Teenager jailed for murder of Briton

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN MONTICELLO, FLORIDA

A TEENAGER who pleaded guilty in the killing of a British tourist in north Florida two years ago was sentenced yesterday to 27 years in prison. The prosecution said Aundra Atkins, 16, fired the shots that killed Gary Colley, 34, during a bungled robbery in September 1993.

Atkins, 14 at the time, pleaded guilty earlier this year to second-degree murder, which carries a maximum sentence of 40 years. Atkins told Nikki Clark, the judge, that he had nightmares and trouble sleeping after the shooting.

Atkins apologised in court to Colley's longtime companion, Margaret Jagger, 37, who was wounded in the attack and later identified him.

In exchange for his plea, Atkins agreed to testify against John Crumitie, who was convicted of first-degree murder and sentenced earlier this month to life. Crumitie, 18, will serve at least 25 years before being eligible for parole. Prosecutors say Atkins and Crumitie were the gunmen, and Atkins fired the fatal shot.

The murder was the ninth of a foreigner in Florida over a 12-month period.

Security 'iron curtain' angers Israeli leaders

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

AMID dire warnings of more political violence to follow Yitzhak Rabin's assassination, Israeli public life has retreated behind an iron curtain of security which many politicians allege is threatening the working of the only real democracy in the Middle East.

Shung by criticism, the internal security service, Shin Bet, has imposed a regime that is threatening the contact between Israeli leaders and the electorate for which the country was famed. Shimon Peres, the acting Prime Minister, now wears a bullet-proof vest on all public appearances and the homes of top politicians from both Left and Right are being guarded around the clock.

"The exaggerated security measures we have been subjected to are reminiscent of a South American banana republic," Yossi Katz, a Labour deputy, told an executive meeting of his party's Knesset faction. He was supported by Nissim Zivli, the ruling party's secretary-general, who complained: "We simply cannot live with this. It is a very serious problem. They must find a middle way."

Senior political sources said yesterday that requests to relax the new clampdown had been made to Shin Bet by senior government officials,

but they had received "a polite refusal".

Fears of more violence over the future of the occupied West Bank — land which right-wing Jews regard as part of Israel's biblical heritage and which the Left wants to hand back to the Arabs — were increased yesterday when a top Israeli reserve officer with knowledge of Jewish settler movements spoke on Israel Radio.

Micha Regev, a lieutenant-colonel who studied at Mercaz HaRav Jewish seminary, the ideological centre for the mainstream settler movement, disclosed that he had warned the authorities of the "specific" danger of more violence by right-wing militants.



Rabin: assassinated at rally for peace

He refused to elaborate, but added: "We are not talking about one man. We are talking about a very deeply rooted ideological movement, part of which is very extreme."

The colonel revealed the existence of a group educated to believe it was in the forefront of a messianic movement dedicated to settling the West Bank (occupied land seized from Jordan in 1967) and that such a group could not now stand by as the land is gradually handed back to the Palestinians under terms of the 1993 peace deal.

"This group is persuaded that the next stage after the redemption of the land and the liberation of Judea and Samaria (the West Bank) is the establishment of the temple and here you have, instead of that, Palestinian policemen arriving in the heart of the cities that are holy in their view."

The extent of grassroots anger on both sides of the political divide was demonstrated when left-wing Jewish extremists defaced the walls of Israel's chief rabbinic building in Jerusalem, an act spurred by reports that radical Jewish clergymen had prompted Rabin's assassination by issuing a mystical-type of death warrant against him because of his peace accord with Palestinian leaders.

Row heats up over 'mouse head in chilli'

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

WENDY'S, the fast-food restaurant chain, yesterday poured scorn on a woman's claim that she found a mouse head in a bowl of the company's chilli.

Tamar Tindall, 22, of New York, claims that she bit on the severed head of a mouse while having lunch at her local Wendy's earlier this month. Her lawyer, Jerrold Parker, yesterday held a press conference in front of the franchise outlet in New York's Queen's borough where the alleged incident took place. Mr Parker said that Miss Tindall "lost consciousness and fell backwards over her chair. After knocking her on her back, the mouse came out of her mouth." An ambulance was called.

Mr Parker said that the restaurant manager had rushed over to Miss

Tindall and had said "it's only chicken". A dispute then occurred between the manager and Miss Tindall's family over the alleged mouse head. Miss Tindall, who is unemployed, says she will file a lawsuit against Wendy's for \$50 million (£32 million).

A hospital spokesman confirmed that Miss Tindall had arrived in an ambulance accompanied by "what appeared to be a former mouse. She was treated and released for the possible swallowing of same". She took the mouse with her when she left the hospital and it is now in formaldehyde.

A spokesman for Wendy's said: "We have had claims like this before and every one has been a hoax. It's the exact same thing—a mouse in the chilli. It has

happened before as a claim and it has been proven false." The spokesman added that there have been four such claims in the past 15 years. As soon as the alleged incident was reported the remaining chilli was taken to an independent laboratory, he said, and was found to be free of foreign objects. The US Health Department gave the kitchen a clean report.

The alleged incident happened in a restaurant run by a Wendy's franchisee. The spokesman for Wendy's, which is one of America's most successful fast-food chains, said: "The company is very confident that the chilli served to this customer was safe and wholesome." He urged other customers to ignore the lawsuit.

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Scharping: attacked rivals

SPD leader calls for party unity

FROM ROGER BOYES
IN BERLIN

RUDOLF SCHARPING, the leader of Germany's Social Democrats, yesterday admitted having made mistakes, but urged his rivals to stop sabotaging his position. "The squabbling has to stop here and now," Herr Scharping told the SPD conference in Mannheim.

"If I talk of mistakes, I think of my own first and foremost," Herr Scharping said. As for his critics — by whom he meant above all the prime ministers of Lower Saxony, Gerhard Schröder, and of the Saar, Oskar Lafontaine — they should say to his face what they thought.

Dozens of motions to be discussed this week make clear that delegates are impatient with the scramble for power at the top which has already given Berlin Social Democrats their worst result since the Second World War.

Next March there will be three further state elections, which will determine the strength of European monetary union as a ballot box issue — and the future of Herr Scharping as the official challenger to Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor.

The party's support has dropped to 27 per cent, 9 per cent lower than last year.

Civil servants sent home as America runs out of money

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

THE White House ordered the indefinite shutdown of all non-essential government services yesterday after President Clinton and Republican congressional leaders failed to resolve their budgetary stalemate at a last-ditch meeting late on Monday night.

The Government officially ran out of money at midnight local time. At 9.30am Alice Rivlin, the White House budget director, ordered all government department heads "to implement the close-down of affected operations". An estimated 800,000 of 2.1 million federal workers were sent home as top White House and Republican officials rushed to blame the other side.

Mrs Rivlin and Leon Panetta, the White House chief of staff, later travelled to Capitol Hill for yet another attempt to defuse the escalating fiscal crisis, but neither side was prepared to predict how long the shutdown might continue.

There have been five shutdowns in the past 15 years, none lasting more than four

days, but this time, with a presidential election looming, neither side has much room for manoeuvre. The Republicans are determined to honour their 1994 electoral pledge to balance the budget and drastically shrink the Government over seven years, while Mr Clinton has vowed to protect major social programmes from substantial cuts.

The immediate battle is over two Republican measures designed to keep the Government operating until next month while the Republicans complete their budget plan. Mr Clinton vetoed both measures on Monday, accusing Republicans of attaching conditions that would force him to accept in advance some of the most "objectionable" elements of their budget.

As the President vetoed the second measure, Newt Gingrich, the House Speaker, and Robert Dole, the Senate leader, arrived at the White House for an eleventh-hour meeting. They left before midnight with nothing agreed.

"We went around and around, but we don't have an agreement," said Mr Dole. "This could last for days," said Richard Gephardt, leader of the House Democrats.

Mr Clinton sees advantage in opposing Republican "extremism" that would, he says, destroy America's social fabric. He wants to make no concessions in what is a dress rehearsal for a larger war over the budget proper that could last into the new year and have a huge impact on the presidential election.

The pressure is on the Republicans. A Washington Post poll yesterday showed 46 per cent blamed the Republicans and 27 per cent Mr Clinton. Other recent polls have shown waning public support for cuts on the scale the Republicans want.

Mr Gingrich yesterday showed the first glimmer of compromise, saying the Republicans would drop all conditions if Mr Clinton agreed in principle to balance the budget over seven years.

Washington shuts down

BY MARTIN FLETCHER

ON THE day America's Government shut down, 150,000 federal employees in the nation's capital received the most damning of verdicts: they were deemed non-essential and sent home, creating a reverse mid-morning rush hour to the suburbs.

The 430-strong White House staff was cut to 90. The Secret Service and the Situation room, which keeps a

round-the-clock watch on the world, operated as normal, but only four of Hillary Clinton's 16 aides were kept on.

On Capitol Hill senators reluctantly acquiesced in the closure of their dining rooms. Whitehouse hearings were cancelled and constituents found it almost impossible to complain to their congressmen because half the switchboard operators were laid off.

Tourists spots were closed and the National Gallery had

to shut its Vermeer exhibition just two days after it had opened. The only way into the museums was electronically through the World Wide Web.

Nasa kept on 1,300 of its 21,000 employees — enough to service the space shuttle *Atlantis* as it heads for today's rendezvous with Russia's space station Mir. Mission Control jokingly told the shuttle's five crew they had "made the list of critical personnel who can report to work".



President Yeltsin before holding high-level talks in a Moscow hospital yesterday

Yeltsin reasserts control

FROM RICHARD BEESTON
IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT YELTSIN yesterday gave his most convincing public performance since he was rushed to hospital nearly three weeks ago after suffering his second heart attack this year.

Looking relaxed and fit and wearing a suit, the Russian leader spoke to reporters at Moscow's Central Clinical Hospital before a meeting

with President Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan, his first foreign visitor since his illness.

"I am holding and controlling the wheel of this large boat which is Russia and I have my finger on the pulse," said the Kremlin leader.

The decision to give the short press conference and hold such high-level talks with one of Russia's most important neighbours seemed calculated to convince the population that Mr Yeltsin,

64, has made a genuine recovery. In his last appearance on television earlier this month, he slurred his speech and looked very ill.

Since then he has had regular contact with his aides and ministers and yesterday he nominated Sergei Dubinin, a former reformist Finance Minister, to head Russia's Central Bank in an attempt to force through key personnel changes before parliamentary elections next month.

Georgians lament loss of local-boy Stalin

BY RICHARD BEESTON

JOSEPH STALIN is steadily enjoying a comeback over the very people he terrorised.

From the chaos of post-Communist Russia to the ethnic conflicts of the Caucasus, a small but vocal minority is clamouring for a return to the days when law and order prevailed at home and the Soviet Union was respected and feared abroad.

Much of the inspiration for the campaign has been directed from Gori, the dictator's home town, where Stalin is still fondly remembered as the local boy made good.

Visiting this small market town 50 miles from Tbilisi, the Georgian capital, is like travelling back to an era when Stalin was "Uncle Joe", rather than the despot who masterminded the deaths of 21 million Soviet citizens.

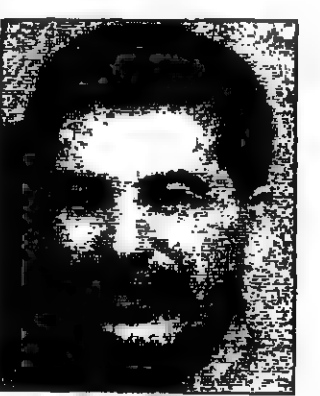
Were it not for the campaign posters for the 55 parties taking part in the recent parliamentary and presidential elections, the town remains a perfectly preserved monument to his legacy. The main street through Gori is Stalin Avenue. One end is dominated by the Stalin museum, set beside his humble childhood home. The other leads to the main square where a towering statue of the tyrant, the last left standing in the world, looks down on his loyal supporters.

"You should not believe what they say about him, it's all nonsense," said Shalva Mamulashvili, a Second World War veteran, whose eyes still shine when he recalls the fear and respect Stalin commanded. "Stalin was like the head of a large family. He had to be strong to keep the family together. I only wish we could have someone like him today."

Stalin's rehabilitation has spread well beyond Georgia's borders.

Hardline Communists turned out in their thousands earlier this month to mark the anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution, and Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Russian Prime Minister, used the fifth anniversary of the end of the Second World War to emphasise Stalin's role in the victory over Hitler.

One even more unlikely recent convert to the cause was Eduard Shevardnadze, the newly re-elected Georgian leader, who openly courted the Stalinist vote in his presidential campaign and notably failed to make any criticism of the late dictator during two recent visits to Gori.



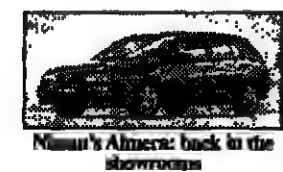
Stalin: revival in popular esteem

ADVERTISEMENT
Count behind countless Almera disappearances 'regrets nothing'

Nation's relief as Nissan heist's Mr. Big is captured in Spain

THE EVIL megalomaniac who masterminded the abductions of over 6,000 new Nissan Almeras is behind bars.

Just three weeks ago Count De Leboyer orchestrated the dramatic heist of a Nissan cargo ship off the coast of Spain in which over £50 million worth of brand new Almeras went missing. Police captured the Count at his Spanish hideaway yesterday after working on information received from his number two, the Marquis De Brieve. The Count showed no remorse for his crimes. "Je ne regrette rien," he told reporters.



Nissan's Almera: back to the showroom

Meanwhile, in dawn raids across Britain, police arrested over fifty wealthy aristocrats who were recruited by the Count to continue his campaign of terror here at home. A spokesman told reporters "The Count had friends in very high places over whom he exerted an inordinate amount of influence. They were like pawns in his hands".

New Almera owners have been living in constant fear for the safety of their cars since the first disappearance in Britain almost two weeks ago.



Count De Leboyer: unrepentant

Since then nearly 1,000 new Almeras have gone missing. The favourite technique used by the abductors involved posing as parking officials and towing legally parked cars away.

Police have now recovered nearly all the missing Almeras from the Marquis De Brieve's private island in the Aegean. They will be returned to their rightful owners over the next few days. A Nissan spokesman told reporters "To say we are relieved is an understatement. Thanks to exemplary police work all new Almera owners can sleep easy in their beds".

The Almera was launched to great acclaim on October 19th and boasts levels of comfort and technology not normally associated with a family hatchback. "The Almera's highly innovative Multilink Beam Suspension system was like a thorn in the Count's side," a police spokesman told reporters. "He resented the fact that ordinary people could afford a car that offered driver enjoyment without sacrificing passenger comfort and hatched an elaborate plot to get it off the streets".

Nissan have announced that the new Almera is now readily available from showrooms all over the country. Anyone wishing for more information should call 0345 66 99 66.

Republicans warn Clinton over Bosnia troops vow

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

REPUBLICAN leaders told President Clinton that Capitol Hill support for sending American troops to Bosnia-Herzegovina was "virtually nil" as Warren Christopher, the Secretary of State, yesterday struggled to kickstart stalled peace talks in Ohio.

Newt Gingrich, the House Speaker, and Robert Dole, the Senate majority leader, told the President in a letter that he would damage Nato's credibility if he could not honour a promise to send ground troops to the region. The presence of up to 20,000 American soldiers as the main element of a Nato peacekeeping force is expected to be tied to any successful outcome of the talks taking place in Dayton, Ohio.

"It would be the gravest possible mistake to reach agreement in Dayton and then find you do not have the support of the American people and Congress," the letter said.

The threat, released as the House of Representatives planned a vote to block funding for the deployment of ground troops to Bosnia, had

little effect on an Administration which has both promoted and gambled heavily on the success of its Balkan initiative.

Mr Christopher, making his second appearance in less than a week in Ohio, was hoping to breathe new life into talks between the presidents of Bosnia, Croatia and Serbia which have reached an inevitable impasse over territory, the status of Sarajevo, the constitution and the future military balance in the region.

Another stumbling block is the insistence of the Bosnian delegation that Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader and Ratko Mladic, his military counterpart, be

Sarajevo: General Philippe Morillon, the French peacekeeper who offered himself as a human shield during the 1993 siege of Srebrenica, returned to Sarajevo yesterday to say farewell. The five-star general, a former commander of United Nations troops in Bosnia, is leaving the army in January. (Reuters)

ousted and brought before the United Nations war crimes tribunal in The Hague.

There has been an increasing realisation within the Clinton Administration that 13 days of talks at Wright-Patterson Air Force base have produced almost no momentum towards an overall settlement. The White House hopes it can achieve a successful outcome in time for Thanksgiving next week when many members of Congress will be away from Washington.

In taking on Capitol Hill opposition to risking American lives in Bosnia, Mr Clinton wants to emulate the tactics used by George Bush in securing congressional support for sending soldiers to the Gulf five years ago. Mr Bush reserved his constitutional right to act if Congress rejected his appeal for funding.

Mr Clinton is hampered by the general belief that there is no vital national interest for America in the Bosnian conflict and the last time forces were deployed for peacekeeping, in Somalia, the mission was disastrous.

Juppé welfare cuts assailed on all sides

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

ALAIN JUPPÉ, the French Prime Minister, faced mounting criticism from all sides yesterday as he prepared to unveil government plans on the contentious issue of welfare reform.

In Paris, unions staged a march to the National Assembly and snarled rush-hour traffic as part of a "day of protest" against expected cuts in social security spending and a reduction of welfare benefits.

The Force Ouvrière (Workers' Force) union has called for another 24-hour national strike later this month in opposition to the changes. Other unions are likely to follow suit in a strike that could be even more paralyzing than the stoppage last month over a plan to freeze civil service pay.

"We've had these rights since de Gaulle, and now the Government is trying to take them away," one demonstrator said.

The Government's reform package to be announced today is expected to include such unpopular measures as tax rises, increased payroll levies

and cuts in welfare spending, particularly on healthcare. France spends nearly 10 per cent of its GDP on healthcare, compared to just over 7 per cent in Britain.

"Thousands of union members held meetings, marches and other demonstrations in 30 cities and towns throughout France yesterday. A 28-hour strike by train drivers caused only slight delays and cancellations on some lines, while ferry services and a handful of domestic airline flights were also affected. Tourists at the Eiffel Tower were left waiting after staff went on strike for an hour."

Tackling France's debt-ridden welfare system is crucial in the Government's drive to cut the overall deficit in line with the criteria for European monetary union. M Juppé promised to be "audacious" as he launched a two-day debate on overhauling the system.

A new flat-rate tax is expected to form the cornerstone of M Juppé's reforms, but supporters of Edouard Balladur, the former Prime Minister, cautioned that increasing the tax burden could slow growth.

Gourmet termites dine out in Paris

BY BEN MACINTYRE

PARISIANS might be forgiven for thinking that some sort of biblical curse is upon them. Following a wave of terrorist bombings and a boat of the worst air pollution on record, the city is now contending with a plague of termites.

Le Parisien newspaper yesterday issued a "termite alert", warning that the burrowing beetles have infested 23 districts in the Paris area and are now nibbling their way through the heart of the city.

The termite is choosy about which buildings it will eat. In the city centre its activities have so far been limited to the exclusive Left Bank, home to intellectuals and politicians. For the moment, however, suburban areas are the worst affected.

In recent years increasing numbers of Parisians have returned home to find their door frames devoured, their parquet gnawed and, in a few cases, their pictures eaten. Some 5,000 Paris buildings have been inspected for termite damage so far, according to hygiene inspectors.

"The situation is not catastrophic, but in certain areas of Paris, it is worrying," the newspaper reported. Some residents fear that the wood-

eating insects may eventually undermine house prices as well as buildings.

A stealthy operator, unlike other wood-eaters, the termite leaves no sawdust and makes no noise: the first sign of infestation may come when your Louis XIV armchair suddenly disintegrates.

While its arrival in the middle of Paris may be a comparatively recent phenomenon, termites from the tropics first arrived on French shores towards the end of the 18th century. The first record of infestation was in Rochefort on France's Atlantic coast. From here the bug travelled slowly north, and was detected on the outskirts of Paris in 1945 after delivery of a shipment of firewood from Bordeaux.

In 1968 Jean de Feytaud, the founding father of French termite studies, discovered the insects in just four outlying Paris neighbourhoods. By 1981, termites had chewed their way into 12 localities and by this year they had spread to almost every part of Paris, with the odd exception of the Right Bank. Perhaps, like many other tourists, they simply find the food is better on the Left Bank of the Seine.

Britain opposes wider EU role

FROM EDWARD OWEN IN MADRID

BRITAIN was described yesterday as the odd man out by opposing European Union control of the continent's military matters at a meeting in Madrid between the foreign and defence ministers of 27 countries.

Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, and Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, told a summit of the Western European Union (WEU), with responsibilities for security and defence, that Britain was completely opposed to a fusion with the EU which would make the European Council responsible for all the WEU's activities. They



Rifkind: view attacked by European partners

faced fierce opposition from the Netherlands, Italy and Belgium and a Spanish diplomat said during the debate that Britain was "the odd man out".

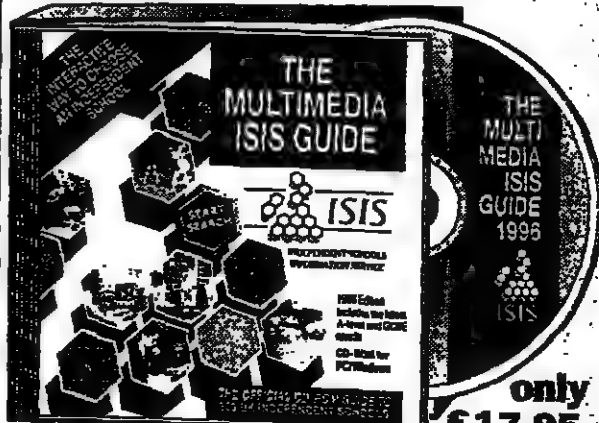
The meeting agreed to submit three main options to the inter-governmental conference of the EU in 1996, suggesting how far the WEU will work with Brussels. The first option, solely proposed by Britain, suggests that the WEU retain its autonomy and work back-to-back with the European Council. The second option would make the WEU subordinate to the EU and the third would merge the WEU and EU immediately.

Mr Rifkind said Britain's support for the first option was based on the fact that the European Council consists of 15 members, four of whom are neutral countries which have no collective defence commitment under either the WEU or Nato.

"Therefore we believe it is simply not realistic or possible to give the European Council decision-making over the WEU when some countries are not members of it and when associate members, like Turkey and Norway, are not in the European Council."

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Rebels poised for final battle

Sri Lankan troops capture Tamils' main base in Jaffna

By Christopher Thomas, South Asia Correspondent

THE Sri Lankan Army, pressing its advance into the Tamil Tiger stronghold of Jaffna town, last night announced the capture of the rebels' main political headquarters on the outskirts.

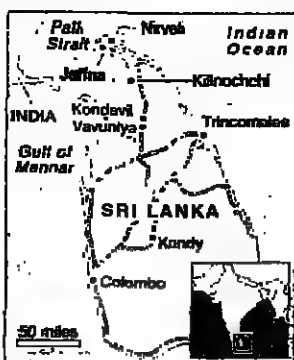
It is another humiliating defeat for the fighters, who have been scattered. Their de facto homeland on the Jaffna peninsula has collapsed and the town could be overrun within days.

Tamils reaching the northern town of Vavuniya said the political base was overwhelmed at Kondavil, three miles north of the town. At least 50,000 residents fled the shattered city, which used to have 200,000 residents, leaving it all but empty save for Tiger fighters bracing for the final battle.

According to aid agencies, 400,000 people have fled their homes to avoid the fighting there. The International Committee of the Red Cross, in a statement in Geneva, put the figure at 250,000. Most are homeless and are enduring monsoon storms.

The Red Cross announced that it was pulling out of the town because of the likelihood of intense fighting. It has moved temporarily to the northern coastal town of Point Pedro, which is held by the Tigers. A convoy of 30 vehicles and 220 people reached the destination safely last night.

The Tigers are putting up fierce resistance, but the fall of Jaffna, their headquarters for five years, is inevitable. The army said two divisions encountered large numbers of anti-personnel mines; 51 Division was advancing on the eastern flank but had been slowed by minefields, while 52



na residents said the army yesterday captured the suburb of Thinnaveli, a mile from the town centre.

There seems little doubt that most top Tiger officials have fled the town, including Velupillai Prabhakaran, their leader. Many have crossed the Jaffna lagoon and reached the haven of jungles in Kilinochchi district on the mainland. More than 100,000 refugees, fleeing across the lagoon in small boats, have also arrived there.

This is the greatest crisis for the Tigers in their 12-year war for a Tamil homeland in the Northern and Eastern provinces of the island. They claimed last night that the army had destroyed Tamil-owned property, but a military spokesman denied this.

The army is cautious in its advance into Jaffna because it fears that the Tigers might attack with suicide bombers. Now that Jaffna is virtually a ghost town, it is possible that the Air Force will be employed in the final battle.

Civilian casualties have been remarkably light and the Government has gained international credibility for its conduct of the war. The aim of the offensive is to force the Tigers into negotiations. The Government has offered substantial devolution, which would give Tamils unprecedented sovereignty over the Northern and Eastern provinces.

The plan is in trouble because of resistance from the Sinhalese majority, which fears it could lead to the break-up of the country. At the last count, the Government was still 11 votes short of the two-thirds majority needed to push it through parliament.

Foreign aid talks are called off

Colombo: A meeting of foreign donors and non-governmental agencies in Sri Lanka was called off yesterday after noisy protests and a mob attack on photographers and journalists, the organisers said. The two-day meeting, scheduled to start today in the southern beach resort of Bentota, was abandoned as crowds denounced the gathering as an attempt to support the Tigers. (AFP)



A suspected serial killer is pushed towards a patrol car in Kentucky. Glen Rogers, 33, wanted in five states, was arrested after a high-speed police chase that was televised nationwide (Giles Whitell writes). The chase followed a cross-country manhunt linked to the murders of four women in the past six weeks. Mr Rogers, who denied any

TV chase arrest

involvement in the killings, was free on probation because of a legal error in Los Angeles earlier this year, according to local news reports. He was spotted after a news item on the television programme *America's Most Wanted*. Cali-

fornia police want to question Mr Rogers about three other murders. He is also wanted in connection with the murders of a 72-year-old Kentucky man and of three women killed in the past ten days in Mississippi, Florida and Louisiana. His sister, Sue Rogers, claimed on television that he had boasted to her of killing 55 people.

Jiang attacks Japan 'militarism'

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN BEIJING

PRESIDENT Jiang Zemin of China, in a surprising attack on Japan during the first visit of a Chinese head of state to South Korea, yesterday urged vigilance against what he called a "Japanese militarist minority".

"Although half a century has passed since the end of a war between China and Ja-

pan, some Japanese politicians still have a wrong historical view," Mr Jiang said in a news conference with President Kim Young Sam of South Korea.

"The key problem is whether Japan recognises that the war was an act of aggression," said Mr Jiang.

President Kim, reflecting outrage in Seoul over a statement by a Japanese minister, Takami Eto, that Japan did

"good things" in Korea under Japanese colonialism, said: "We will correct Japan's bad habits."

As Chinese and South Korean negotiators discussed trade, which is forecast to reach \$9.5 billion this year, Mr Jiang seemed to jump headfirst into the middle of the row between Seoul and Tokyo.

Mr Eto resigned on Monday, but his off-the-record remarks still rankled with Koreans. Yesterday Mr Jiang became the first leader from a communist country to address the National Assembly, dramatically illustrating Peking's growing relationship with Seoul and the expense of its old communist ally in Pyongyang.

Seoul and Peking established formal ties in 1992, concluding decades of hostility following China's backing for the North in the Korean War.

Observers press Algeria to explain 4m increase in voters on eve of poll

FROM MARK HUBAND IN ALGERIA

INTERNATIONAL election observers have demanded that the Algerian Government explain why the country's list of voters to be used in tomorrow's presidential poll has four million more names than at the last poll in 1991.

Concern is growing among the observers invited to oversee the election that the discrepancy could fuel claims by militant Muslims, who have threatened to prevent voting taking place, and other critics that the election is rigged. Three teams of observers, 50 from the Organisation of African Unity, 44 from the Arab League and seven from the United Nations, are in Algeria.

At a meeting of observers and government officials on Monday, the Government agreed to meet OAU demands for a detailed explanation of how the voter list grew from 12 million to 16 million. The election is expected to be won by President Zeroual.

A government spokesman yesterday said that since 1991, four million people had

reached the voting age of 18, thereby explaining the massive increase. However, the observers are calling for a more detailed explanation.

"This is one of the issues that has disturbed us, and we want to know how the census was drawn-up," one said yesterday.

Mr Zeroual attempted to broaden his electoral appeal by distancing himself from the army which put him in power. In his final campaign speech before polling he portrayed himself as an independent candidate, hinting that dialogue with armed Islamic militants may be resumed if he wins outright in the first round of voting.

At a rally in Algiers Mr Zeroual told 5,000 supporters that the crisis in Algeria, which has left up to 40,000 people dead over nearly four years, had been inspired by foreigners wanting to weaken the oil-rich country.

The composition of the three observer groups reflects the international concern over the Algerian crisis. It is the first time that Arab League states have sent observers to an



Zeroual: distanced himself from military backers

election. Their presence will bolster the Government in its fight against armed Islamic militants. One Arab League observer commented that it was crucial for the Government to show that it was willing to have the elections openly scrutinised by outside observers.

However, acceptance of the limitations on the role of the observers was expressed by the leader of the OAU mission, Amadou Toumani Touré, a former military President of Mali who oversaw a successful

transition to democracy in his country.

"There's not a country in the world where there's total transparency," said General Touré. The OAU has refused to comment on election strategy, which has been criticised by Western diplomats as unlikely to solve the crisis owing to the absence of key parties, notably the banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS).

The FIS and other parties view the election as an attempt by the Zeroual Government to legitimise the military eradication of militant Muslims.

After a three-week election campaign, the four candidates have shown that the armed conflict has not prevented them from taking part in public debates and conducting walkabouts in most parts of the country. Election fever has been intensified by voting by the 700,000 Algerians living in France earlier this week.

The size of the voter turnout tomorrow will show how influential political Islam has remained, after years of violence for which the Islamic groups have been held largely responsible.

Wary India denies visa to writer

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

TASLIMA Nasreen, the fugitive Bangladeshi writer whose life was threatened by Islamic fundamentalists, has been denied a visa to enter India. Delhi evidently fears upsetting Muslim voters in the run-up to a general election next year.

The writer is unable to return home because of continuing fears for her life. The Dhaka Government, also facing an election next year, hopes she will stay away. It does not want large-scale street protests.

Ms Nasreen, who has been living in Berlin for almost three months on an academic fellowship, applied for a tourist visa to visit Bangladeshi friends and relatives in India. The request was forwarded to Delhi and embassy officials in Germany were instructed to reject it. She was told the official reason was concern for her security. But clearly the Government fears that her visit could be used to turn Muslim voters away from the governing Congress Party.

Gulf rulers blame foreigners for blast

By Michael Binyon, Diplomatic Editor

GULF Arab rulers voiced outrage and alarm at the Riyadh blast which killed six people, including five Americans, while shocked Saudi authorities promised to spare no effort to catch the bombers.

A team of American experts from the State Department and the FBI was due to arrive yesterday evening to help sift through the wreckage at the military centre. They will want to know whether the explosive used points to a foreign-inspired attack or one by local opposition groups.

Leading Saudi dissidents in London yesterday doubted that the explosion was the work of Iranians, but gave a warning that "the door to bloodshed had been opened and it will be very difficult to close that door again". The Committee for the Defence of Legitimate Rights, an opposition group headed by Muhammad al-Massari and a thorn in the Royal Family's flesh, denied any responsibility, saying its opposition was conducted by argument.

Saudi Arabia's Gulf allies were quick to condemn the

attack, which the Gulf Co-operation Council called a "criminal and sinful act" that contradicted the teachings of Islam. The council, comprising Bahrain, Qatar, Kuwait, Oman, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia, said that the attack was alien to the region and blamed "the hands of foreigners targeting stability".

Other Middle East states were equally alarmed at the prospect of violence in Saudi Arabia, whose oil wealth makes it an influential power. King Hassan of Morocco wrote to King Fahd to deplore the "odious crime" and express his solidarity. Fellow monarchs and conservative rulers are convinced that militant Islamic groups — some, ironically, depending indirectly on past Saudi financial aid — will exploit the attack to shake international confidence in the ruling family.

A spokesman for Dr Massari cast doubt on reports that Iran was behind the attack, saying the Shia Muslims had "made arrangements" with the regime.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Britons detained by China

Hong Kong: Chinese border guards detained eight Britons for nine hours yesterday. The eight had tried to enter Shenzhen to apply for five-day visas — standard practice for quick trips from Hong Kong.

One of the detainees, John Powell, a Hong Kong-based businessman, said they were told by border guards they were being held because Britain had refused to let a Chinese disembark from a flight in London.

The eight were released after being told to each pay a HK\$500 (£41) fine for having tried to enter China illegally. Hong Kong radio said the British Embassy in Peking was making inquiries. (AFP)

Guerrillas claim hostage is dying

Srinagar: Kashmiri separatists who have been holding four Western tourists captive for more than four months said yesterday that one was very sick and could die. The Al Faran kidnappers did not name the hostage. Earlier, they had said the American, and one of the two Britons will kill the hostages if India does not release 15 of their jailed comrades. India has rejected the demand. (AP)

Peace training

Harare: The first regional UN peacekeeping centre, to tackle genocidal conflicts, has been opened in Harare. The centre will run peacekeeping training courses and be a logistics base for limited amounts of equipment. (AFP)

Haitians shot

Port-au-Prince: Four people, mostly suspected followers of Haiti's former military regime, were shot dead and nine were wounded during a pro-government demonstration in Gonaives, 93 miles northwest of the capital. (AFP)

Diplomat killed

Geneva: Swiss authorities launched a top-level inquiry into the killing of Ahmed Alaa Nazmi, an Egyptian diplomat shot in the garage of his Geneva flat building, suggesting that police believe the motive was political. (Reuters)

Asylum sought

Jakarta: Twenty-one East Timorese sought political asylum in the Japanese Embassy in Jakarta, Japan said it was unlikely to give them refuge. They are the third group to enter an embassy in Indonesia in two months. (Reuters)

Fraud diagnosed

San Sebastian: A prosecutor is demanding 10 years' jail for a man who posed as a gynaecologist. The man, on trial in this Spanish town, treated more than 10,000 women over 14 years but had no medical qualifications. (Reuters)

Number's up

Taipei: The city government here is to allow people to delete the number '4' from their addresses after numerous complaints from superstitious residents. The number sounds similar to the word "death" in Chinese. (AP)

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Three fashion experts transform the black dress

One dress for day and night

The glossy magazines are gearing themselves up for Christmas. "You only need one party dress this season," says the editorial in the latest issue of *Elle* magazine, "but it has to be black."

The *Elle* fashion team selects 50 black dresses: some little, some long. Some pricey (a jersey dress by Chanel for £1,650), some with unbeatable price tags (a chiffon dress from Dorothy Perkins for £39.99). Meanwhile, over at *Marie Claire* they have also been busy sifting through the racks and offer no fewer than 101 variations on the theme (under £100) which promise to "see you through the party season".

Fashion journalist of the year



IAIN R. WEBB

Vogue features Claudia Schiffer in black lace and satin and Paula Yates in a Hervé Leger stretch bandage dress and maintains that "monotone needn't be monotonous".

There can be few items of clothing which reappear on the catwalk with such regularity as the black dress. This season the international collections were filled with them, from the formal look of Calvin Klein's starched duchesse satin shifts, to the barely-there wisps of chiffon and lace by Karl Lagerfeld for Chanel.

At Prada, the silhouette featured a bell-shaped skirt and spaghetti straps. Helmut Lang offered a strapless sheath while at Dolce & Gabbana the favoured shape was a slimline 1960s Jackie O shift. Naturally the high street has been quick to follow and less expensive versions are available from Episode, Warehouse, Oasis, Kookai, River Island, Whistles and Dorothy Perkins among others.

The modern little black dress has added value, having moved beyond the confines of occasion dressing. With evening fabrics such as satin, velvet and silk jersey crossing



the cocktail-hour barrier and working as daytime options, the fashion crowd has been quick to realise its usefulness. They slip into one to wear to work and, later in the day, with a few minor adjustments, trip out into the night.

The black shift dress is what Kim Stringer, the associate fashion and beauty editor at *Elle*, calls a "go anywhere dress. In the 1950s and 1960s the black dress was always swished up to the knees. In the

1990s it's far more casual."

When we asked her to restyle a dress to go from day to evening wear, Stringer created a daytime look by layering the dress with a little sweater, and a cardigan wrapped around the waist.

The same look can be achieved with a shiny, skintight shirt. This gives the appearance of a two-piece outfit. Elizabeth Walker, the executive fashion and beauty editor at *Marie Claire*, favours this look, too. "But don't put anything underneath," Walker says, "especially not a T-shirt under a slip dress, as this now looks tired and old-fashioned."

Flat pumps lend the look a new proportion for day. A pair of high-heeled mules are, "instantly recognisable as an evening look", Stringer says.

Walker streamlined the dress for evening, adding just a diamante belt, bag and kitten heel sandals. "You only want to take the minimum of

extra bits and pieces to work with you," she says. "For evening you don't need to look lavish, just well groomed."

Kate Phelan, the fashion editor at *Vogue*, simply swapped coats — camel for day, shocking pink for night — and trendy, must-have accessories: a daytime Prada bag is replaced by a diamante Tiffany cross. And, to complete the look, "maybe a smudge of Elizabeth Arden 3 Hour Cream on lips and eyelids".

THE ELLE LOOK by Kim Stringer, associate fashion editor

Day: Black wool crepe shift dress, £110, Whistles, Sloane St. SW3. Rib sweater, £19.99, Dorothy Perkins, nationwide. Cashmere cardigan, £175, N. Peal, Burlington Arcade, W1. Natural suede bag, £80, Graeme Ellsdon, Osprey, St Christopher's Place, W1. Patent shoes, £55, Bette, Fenwicks, Cosmetics Factor 1 Tights, £2.99, Sock Shop, branches nationwide.

Evening: Black dress, Whistles, as before. Pale pink beaded cardigan, £70, French Connection, branches nationwide. Fake snakeskin clutch bag, £24.99, Ravel, branches nationwide (0171-631 0224). Clear plastic and pink silk mules, £165, to order, Jimmy Choo (0171-249 2082). Tights, £2.99, Sock Shop, branches nationwide.



THE VOGUE LOOK, by Kate Phelan, fashion editor

Day: Black bouclé shift dress, £150, Whistles, as above. Camel coat, £199, Penny Black, Fenwicks, as above right. Black leather shoulder bag, £395, Prada, Joseph, Fulham Rd, SW3. Black kitten heel shoes, £165, Gine, as above right. Tights, Sock Shop, see above.

Evening: Black dress, Whistles, as before. Pink moleskin coat, £595, Voyage, Fulham Rd, SW3. Silver chain belt, £52 approx, Sally Gissing, Harvey Nichols, Knightsbridge, SW1. Diamante cross, £48, Butler & Wilson, Fulham Rd, SW3. South Molton St, W1. Harrods, Knightsbridge, SW1. Black satin shoes, £275, Manolo Blahnik, 49-51 Old Church St, SW3.

Photographs by CHRIS DAWES. Make-up by STEPHANIE JENKINS. Hair by JAMES DODDS.



THE MARIE CLAIRE LOOK, by Elizabeth Walker, executive fashion editor

Day: Black satin shift dress, £41.99, Oasis, Regent St, W1. Dogtooth check coat, £89.99, Warehouse (0181-910 1400). Cashmere cardigan, £175, N. Peal, as before. Patent handbag, £29.50, Dollargrand, Selldge, W1. Sunglasses, Cutler & Gross, Knightsbridge, SW1. Black suede boots, £345, Gine, Sloane St, SW1.

Evening: Black dress, Oasis, as above. Diamante strand belt, £33, Otto Glanz, Selfridges, as above, and Fenwicks, Bond St, W1. Diamante handbag, £30, Comucopia, Upper Teckbrook St, SW1. Sunglasses, £59, Cutler & Gross, as above. Black slingbacks, £175, Gine, as above.



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Lace viscose dress, £100, French Connection, Regent St, W1 and branches nationwide (0171-580 2507).

Nylon dress with zip pockets, £39.99, Wallis, selected branches nationwide (0181-202 8252).

Nylon mix shift dress, £49.99, Richards, selected branches nationwide (0181-910 1208).

Belted, grosgrain dress, £35, B&S branches nationwide (0171-262 3288).

Polyester/viscose belted dress, £40, Marks & Spencer, selected branches nationwide (0171-935 4422).

Stretch satin shift dress, £29.99, Miss Selfridge, selected branches nationwide (0181-910 1000).

Wool shift dress, £54.99, Jane Norman, branches nationwide (0171-437 0132).

Pleated satin dress, £49.99, Next Directory (0345 100 5001).

Crepe dress, £149, Episode, Brampton Rd, SW1 (0171-589 4279).

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I seem to have been a star for most of my life

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26

W

Alan Coren



■ Why do so many companies write to me about my parallel existence?

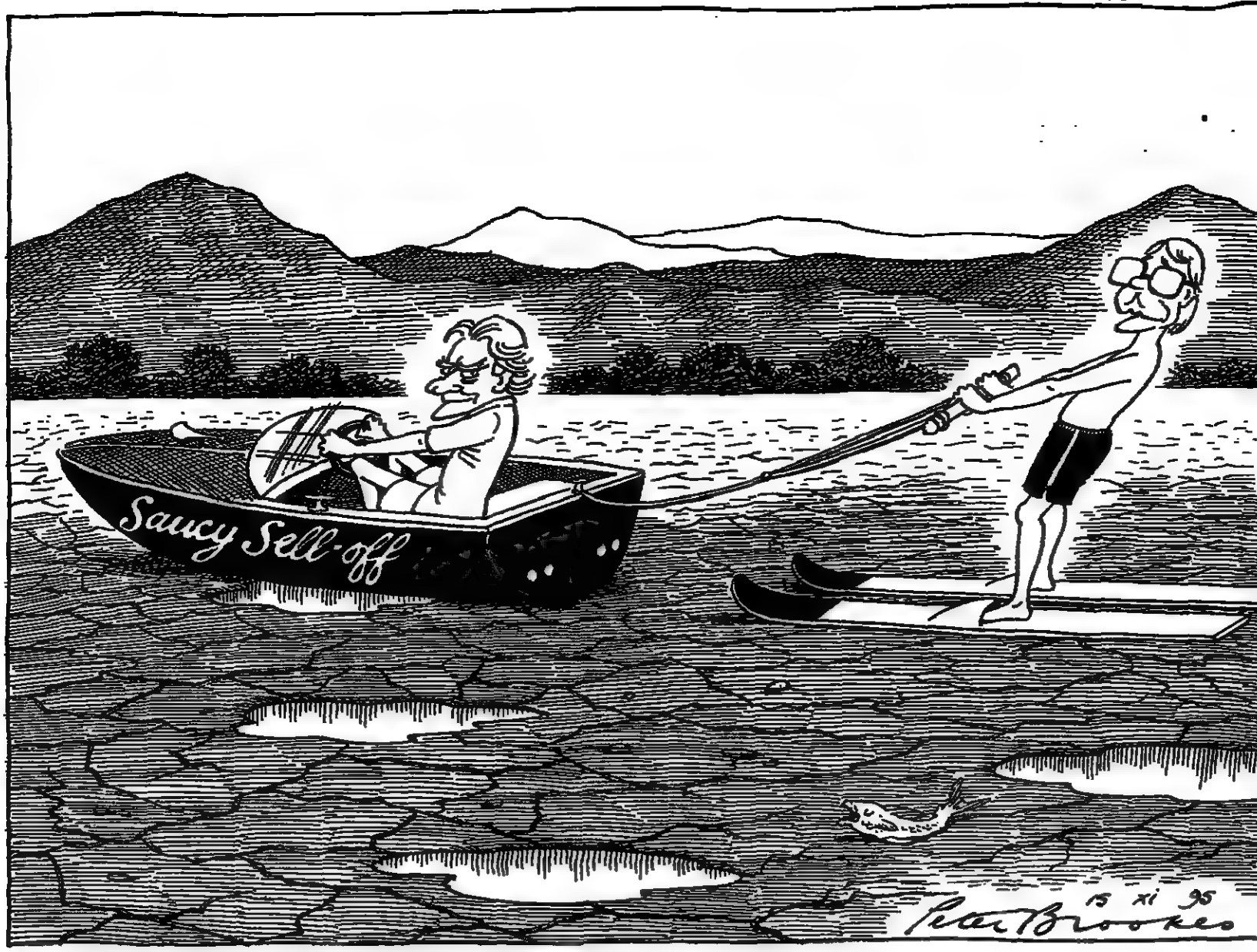
Today, I ask you to forget all the excitable chit-chat about parallel universes in which the parallel fingers belonging to the parallel face above have just finished typing: "Never mind all the excitable chit-chat about...". And I ask you to forget it because the undemonstrable notion that each of us has the same identity somewhere else is not half as important as the demonstrable one that each of us has different identities here. There are now lots of each of us about: and what is more important yet, and twice as unsettling, is that there seems to be no way of preventing our different identities from exponentially increasing with every passing hour. By the time I have finished cobbling this brief feuilleton, there could well be three more of me, each increasingly different from the one before.

For you and I are, willy-nilly, being artificially bred: a gristly system of social engineering has been put in place whereby the assorted bits and bobs which comprise our identities are constantly being rearranged by forces beyond our control, and, as a result, turning into new identities ever more different from the original we believe ourselves to be. I think I know who I am and what I do, you may think you know who I am and what I do, but did either of us realise that I was at the same time a senior academic, top piano-player, international businessman, professional motor mechanic and serious cook, who not only hunted the world on Concorde collecting first editions, good-looking women, sporting guns, Havana cigars, hand-painted ties and entire forests of dwarf conifers for arcane tax purposes, but also dreamt both of being back at his desk within 24 hours of having his hernia fixed, and of finding enough time in that same busy schedule to see the Great Wall of China, raise ornamental ducks, learn para-surfing, and cheer on half a racehorse of his very own?

And all that, I swear, is but a selection of the considered judgments which have been made about me by commercial (of course) organisations which have written to me over the past few months, confident in the belief that they have got me so bang to rights that my far cheque will be in the first post bag. How is it that all of them could have got me so egregiously bang to rights? Why, when I glance down at the unsolicited junk strewn the floor around me, does this correspondent think I strip gearboxes for a living, that one that I teach postgraduates and the one over there that I am a major banana in the option-trading market? Why has one identified me as a Young Turk seeking a wardrobe of Italian suits, but another as an old wreck seeking a menu of surgical intrusions?

Because I pay by credit cards is why, and because those I pay can thus effortlessly compile client lists which can be sold on to others, who will both use them for their immediate sales purposes and then, having amplified them with their own lists, sell them on to new others, and so on and on and on, while all the time crackpot computers programmed to draw very simple and very wrong demographic conclusions spool out ever more cross-referenced cock-eyed calculations, with the result that the man who, say, settles his own bookmaker's bill, takes out a subscription to *The Economist* for his wife, buys a Yuletide sock set for his brother-in-law, and hires a grand piano for his daughter's birthday party, is, purchase by purchase, having an artificial identity constructed from which all manner of other judgments are made about him, and upon which all manner of guesswork is based by hucksters eager to separate him from his wallet.

I do not know how many of me there already are out there in cyberspace — millionaire teenage glaziers, elderly heart-swapped gay trombonists, Nobel-prizewinning fly-fishermen — or how many increasingly peculiar permutations are waiting to be artificially spawned in the imponderable days ahead. I know only that, if there is indeed a parallel universe, a hack in a parallel Cricklewood attic is sitting with his head in his hands, wondering where it will all end.



The new sanctions circus

The bleeding hearts of Hampstead want to turn Nigeria into another pariah state like the old South Africa

Here we go again. The Commonwealth has found some new to hate. It used to ignore the misbehaviour of its members by crusading against South Africa, long after that country had resigned the organisation. The South Africans spilt the fun by holding a free election. Now the Commonwealth has discovered that there is a dictator in Lagos, Nigeria is thus the new dragon against which it charges into the forest and brandishes its rubber sword.

The Nigerian dictator, General Sani Abacha, is a lucky man. He is about to receive that foolproof survival pack for any world leader. It contains economic sanctions, disinvestment, cultural boycott, diplomatic exclusion and exhortation by Greenpeace and the Body Shop. (As a Christmas bonus the pack sometimes includes an American invasion and/or laser-guided, surgical missile strike against the capital, killing dozens of civilians but leaving the target untouched.) The longest-serving dictators in the world are the most-sanctioned. Their capitals are cleansed of meddlesome foreigners, businessmen and aid workers. Their opponents are exiled to the London School of Economics or the Third World page of *The Guardian*. Their family and friends grow rich on sanctions-busting.

The first outcome of the airy posturing last week in Auckland was the precipitate hanging in Nigeria of Ken Saro-Wiwa and his eight colleagues. Nelson Mandela had the grace to admit that the posturing was perhaps a mistake. The next outcome is equally sure. The sanctions being proposed against General Abacha will consolidate him in power, as sanctions always do. Abacha will join the lengthening list of regimes upheld by this useless form of moral indignation: Cuba's Castro, Libya's Gaddafi, Iraq's Saddam Hussein, Syria's Assad, Somalia's warlords and Iran's mullahs. Abacha's oligarchy will be strengthened by economic siege, as was South Africa's. His people will be impoverished, as sanctions hurt the poor of Iraq, Iran and Serbia, but this will not topple him. He will blame foreigners, bribe his supporters and demand new sacrifices of his citizens. He will be less, not more, vulnerable.

Such analysis does not concern the sanctions lobbyists. They just want to feel good. Yesterday the tom-toms were beating out over the rooftops of Islington and echoing from the heights of Hamp-

stead. The braves were being summoned from their tents. Blood was up among the armchair Africanists, under-employed for years, as they deluged Radio 4's *Call Nick Ross* with calls for immediate sanctions. Nor do they worry that Abacha is black. For their purposes, he is what the South African regime used to call an "honorary white", for he is clothed in the garb of Shell Oil. And Shell is not just white but an oil company and villain of world-class venality.

The hypocrisy of all this defies belief. I am sure that the execution of Mr Saro-Wiwa was a judicial outrage, though his elevation into a new Steve Biko seems excessive. Nigerian governments have not passed democratic muster for years. What is that to the Commonwealth? The electoral records of The Gambia, Zimbabwe, Singapore, Kenya, Mozambique and many other members hardly bear examination. I doubt if radical chic London would want to shake hands with Captain Valentine Strasser, military boss of Sierra Leone and loyal Commonwealth member, let alone invite him to a Friends of Democracy muscadet-and-pasta party.

The Commonwealth has never been about democracy. It is a political theme park of Empire. Its salient principle was the right of former colonies to self-determination, a right most states took at face value: one person, one vote, one party, one time. The unspoken rule was that there was to be no interference in the affairs of member states, unless they were ruled by whites. Had it not been for the execution of Mr Saro-Wiwa, the meeting in Auckland would have concentrated on the inquiry of the British Government in refusing to condemn French over nuclear testing. Insulting Britain is a regular Commonwealth conference cabaret. Britain accepted this with an indulgent smile, at least until

Baroness Thatcher came along. The Foreign Office used to be in a funk lest she blow the whistle.

To be fair, the Commonwealth's recent concern over election-rigging in Kenya, over the racist constitution of Fiji and now over Nigerian human rights indicates a tentative coming of age. Yet it lurches backwards when it moves from concern to action. The proposal to impose oil sanctions on Nigeria is lunatic. By all accounts, what Shell did to Ogoniland would not get through Gloucestershire planning committee. Much of the money it pays to the Nigerian authorities is corruptly sequestered and little trickles down to the poor. Shell is spending \$4.5 million on the Ogoni environment but that is all going to consultants.

But to accuse Shell of implication in the execution of Mr Saro-Wiwa is mindless. To expect it to leave Nigeria, or to abandon its proposed gas investment there, is the worst sort of feel-good interventionism. The theory that depriving Nigeria of (a proportion of) its oil revenues will so devastate the ruling junta as to have them resign and declare a free election forthwith is worse than naive. It is economically, politically and historically illiterate. The effect would be to deprive thousands of Nigerians of jobs, or at best move the jobs to another multinational which, by definition, is likely to be less fastidious in its responsibilities.

There is not a shred of evidence that sanctions helped to end apartheid in South Africa. Time and again I noticed foreign companies leaving under pressure from "ethical investment" lobbyists. Their factories were sold cheap to local owners and in many cases less rigorous labour practices were imposed. The cancelling of extractive contracts, for instance for coal and metals, threw out of work thousands of black migrant workers but inconvenienced few whites. Apartheid ended when its internal logic

collapsed. Ostracism, import-substitution and a siege economy probably prolonged white rule.

Shell is foolish to claim that it plays no part in the politics of the 100 countries in which it operates. Extractive industries are entwined in the politics of non-democratic states. What matters is how such political clout is best used. Shell argues that quiet diplomacy might have saved Mr Saro-Wiwa's life. Plainly the Auckland posturing did not. What is certain is that merely withdrawing the money, talent and experience of a multinational from a poor country under dictatorship does not undermine its leaders or spur its peoples to rise and demand democracy.

In Iraq sanctions have increased the prices of almost all domestic produce, enriching middle-class producers and merchants. I am sure General Abacha could find a ready taker among his allies for Shell's abandoned wells, and plenty of black market tankers to ship their oil.

Economic sanctions are the most beguiling form of international aggression. By being non-military, they appeal to the pacifist who wants to be seen to "do something". Many Britons refused to buy French wine during the nuclear tests: as if hurting a Socialist-voting Loire farmer was going to change the mind of the Gaullist President Chirac. This chauvinist lumping together of peasant and President in one politico-economic entity may seem medieval in its crudity. But intelligent people still do it, and claim to feel much better as a result.

The prefix "economic" is intended to give the sanction an aura of precision, as if it could be made to target only the ruler, not the ruled. Unlike war, which is directed at a regime's military might, economic sanctions are aimed at the livelihoods of whole regions and peoples. It stands to reason that they affect the poor before they affect the rich. These poor are supposed to rise up and overthrow their rulers. Given the thinness of this theoretical base, it is small wonder that in sanctioned countries they never do.

I cannot imagine a weapon that is less precise in its aim, more unfair in its choice of victim and more counter-productive than an economic sanction. Yet the Commonwealth is once again taking it down from the shelf, dusting it off and pointing it at one of its members. It won't work.

Blair fails the test on A levels

There is no need for new exams, says Terence Kealey

Bryan Davies, the opposition spokesman for further and higher education, has announced that the next Labour government will abolish A levels. It will also abolish the GNVQ (of which more below) to create a new, fused examination to be known as the Advanced Diploma.

This announcement has provoked predictable responses from teachers, some supportive and others not, but nobody has questioned Mr Davies's right to dictate. Yet our national examinations long pre-date the intervention of Government, and every ministerial *diktat* seems only to degrade them.

The universities of Oxford, Cambridge, London and Durham each created examination boards during the 1850s to meet the needs of the market. The boards created qualifications that were recognised across the globe for their integrity and accuracy. The School Certificate was introduced during the 1920s and the Higher School Certificate during the 1930s, and these developed during the 1960s into O and A levels.

But the State has intervened. The Government retains a unique authority in educational matters, where its claims to omniscience in most other areas of the economy have long been exploded, through the workings of the "Great National Educational Myth".

The myth states that before Forster's 1870 Elementary Education Act, when education was *laissez faire* and largely in the hands of the Church, the poor went uneducated. The myth is based on Forster's famous speech, which can be found in *Hansard* for February 17, 1870. Nobody ever quotes the reply of the opposition spokesman, Montagu, who proved only a few *Hansard* pages on that Forster had knowingly misled the House. As early as 1861 the Royal Commission on Popular Education had reported that 2,535,462 children were at school, out of a total school-age population of 2,655,767, for an average of 5.7 years, and by 1869 school attendance had hit 99 per cent.

Ordinary people organised and paid for their own children's education, and the Church funnelled middle-class philanthropy to pay for the education of the poor. All that Forster did in 1870, and subsequent administrations did in 1891, 1902 and 1944, was to nationalise the schools.

And governments have run them badly ever since. State education in Britain is dreadful, but, contrary to further myth, that is not because it is necessarily underfunded — the Germans and Japanese spend a smaller proportion of gross domestic product. It is dreadful because the politicians have introduced so many changes of policy. In 1904, for example, it became government policy to fine schools for teaching science — it was seen as ungodly. That was reversed in 1944, but then the secondary schools were thrown into upheaval as they were separated into grammar, secondary modern and technical. Then, 20 years later, there was the comprehensive upheaval. Recently, we have had the national curriculum, City Technology Colleges, the administrative chaos of the 1988 Education Reform Act, and we are about to witness the abolition of the Local Education Authorities to encourage opt-out.

This constant reorganisation is extremely damaging, not necessarily because the new ends are themselves always undesirable — though some are introduced for ideological, not educational, reasons — but because rapid change is itself undesirable. Good education is fragile, and it requires hard and consistent application, not re-organisational distraction. Eton and Winchester do not embrace a new cultural revolution every 20 years. The comprehensive schools have only now finally settled down to deliver an equivalent education to the one that the grammar and secondary modern schools did 30 years ago.

Another similarly damaging cultural revolution is about to be thrust on the examination system. The General National Vocational Qualification (GNVQ), with which the A levels are to be fused, is the descendant of the exams of the City and Guilds. Students are examined for an hour and a half on topics such as catering, leisure, care and business. These are valid topics for those who are to enter on them for a career, but they do not approach A levels for academic rigour. Nor should they: A levels evolved to meet the needs of university entry.

Labour's main motive for fusing the GNVQ and A levels is ideological: it is trying to create a classless society. That may be desirable, but it cannot be compatible with exams as necessarily divisive as A levels. Labour will point to the success of the GCSE, which fused the old CSEs and O levels, but that initially went through a number of unhappy years, leaving employers confused and conferring a qualification nobody really trusted on a whole generation of school leavers.

The danger is that Mr Davies will now degrade the A level for a decade while it struggles with its unnecessary fusion with the GNVQ. Even if it finally emerges intact, another generation of schoolchildren will have been robbed of a proper qualification. If Mr Davies really believes in his proposal, let him run it in parallel with A levels and the GNVQ, and let the children, the employers and the universities decide for themselves which qualification they prefer.

Broken home

THE PRINCESS of Wales's friend Lord Palumbo is having difficulty selling his Berkshire home, the Bagnor Manor estate. After putting the property on the market for £10 million this summer, his agents are now quoting a price of between £6 million and £7 million.

The substantial drop in price has been accompanied by a new advertising campaign and a change in strategy. Instead of offering the estate as a whole, Knight Frank & Rutley has decided to split it up and sell it in separate lots.

"We have tried to stick to selling it as a whole," said an agent. "But a decision has been made to sell it in separate lots — although the whole lot is still for sale."

The decision to sell Bagnor Manor was made after a well publicised family feud in which Palumbo's son James and his elder sister Arabella issued writs in the High Court accusing their father of squandering up to £30 million from the family trust. A formal settlement was reached earlier this year in which Palumbo surrendered control of the trust.

■ News that the Princess of Wales is to bare her soul on television

will cause an excruciating dilemma for devotees of Cracker, starring Robbie Coltrane. The Princess will hold court on BBC's Panorama from 9.40pm, cutting into a crucial 20 minutes of Cracker on the other side.

Cat litter

THEATRE critics come in all shapes and sizes, as the president



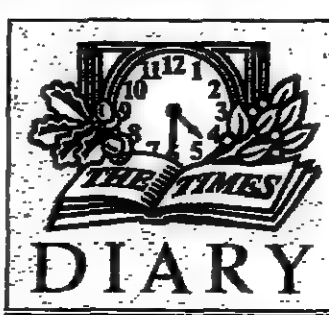
of the Cambridge Footlights Society, David Mitchell, discovered recently to his cost. Having just completed the final draft of his latest play the other day, he left his room for a well-deserved pint at the Peterhouse College bar. In his haste, he inadvertently locked Tibbles, the college cat, in his room.

He returned refreshed, to find that the animal had been unable to contain his feelings for David's manuscript, and had "commented" all over the script. "The play is called *Emergency Exit*," says the dramatist. "I'm sorry the cat didn't find one in time."

Soldier blue

THE PAYMASTER GENERAL, David Heathcoat-Amory, caused chaos on the motorway the other day after motorists spotted what they believed to be a naked man in the back of his car. But blaring horns and flashing lights did not deter the Treasury minister (who was outspoken in his condemnation of the mishandling of the EU budget yesterday) from his destination.

He was delivering a mannequin from the Imperial War Museum to the Bunker Military Museum in Somerset. The MP for Wells explained that he was alarmed to see a male soldier's uniform on a fe-



male mannequin at the Somerset museum and was anxious to correct the mistake.

Well suited

THE FIRST major purchase by Dr Alan Borg, the new Director of the Victoria and Albert Museum, is a new suit. He has spent more than £150,000 on James II's wedding gear.

The heather-coloured coat and breeches, richly embroidered in silver thread, which James, then Duke of York, wore to his wedding to Mary Beatrice d'Este, daughter of the Duke of Modena, in 1673 was a turning point in men's fashion and the precursor of the gentleman's three-piece suit. "It is highly appropriate that the suit should be saved for the nation," says Borg, who has never cut much of a sartorial dash himself.

● Crowds have been cramping into Jane Austen's tiny house in Hampshire after the television adaptation of *Pride and Prejudice*. The main attraction is the visitors' book because Colin Firth and Jennifer Ehle, who played the romantically entwined protagonists, recently signed in.

Who governs?

RESIDENTS of a grand apartment block in Chelsea were startled last week to see the Queen on their doorstep. Her Majesty was enjoying a private visit to her octogenarian former governess, one Mrs Ladd, who taught the young Princess Elizabeth history and French. The couple reminisced for an hour before the Queen returned to her chauffeur. However, she was unamused when one of Mrs Ladd's neighbours chose to take an impromptu photograph.

Simple lass

KATE O'MARA, former star of the popular American soap *Dynasty*, has come down to earth. She is to take to the stage in a former pub theatre, The Orange Tree, in Richmond upon Thames later this month. O'Mara is starring in Bernard Shaw's rarely performed *The Simpleton of the*



O'Mara: no shoulder pads

Unexpected Isles. "It's about mixed marriages and creating a super-family with a lot of inter-breeding. It's really quite bizarre." Though a far cry from the jumbo shoulder pads and high heels of *Dynasty*, O'Mara insists: "I come from a long line of actor-managers and have spent 90 per cent of my career in the theatre. It's where I always am."

P-H-S



CHAPTER OF DISASTERS

If Labour wants to pick and choose, it should keep the opt-out

At last Tony Blair has woken up to the value of Britain's opt-out from the social chapter. He may not realise that he has done so: but his pronouncements can be interpreted in no other way. The Labour leader, in his speech to the Confederation of British Industry on Monday, acknowledged that "the real fear is that by being part of [the social chapter] we may in future agree to the import of inefficient practices to Britain". A Labour government, though, would not allow this to happen: "Each piece of legislation will be judged on its merits. I have no intention whatever of agreeing to anything and everything that emerges from the EU."

Unfortunately, Mr Blair did not elaborate on how he intended to conduct this *à la carte* approach to Brussels legislation. We would be interested to know how he plans to join the social chapter and yet avoid being bound by any directives with which he disagrees. For while five areas in the chapter — social security, dismissals, the representation of workers' and employers' interests, the employment rights of non-EU nationals and the financing of jobs schemes — have to be decided unanimously, all the others are concluded on the basis of qualified majority voting. That means that Britain's veto is useless unless this country finds sufficient allies to allow it to block a directive.

If what Mr Blair is saying is that there may be some proposals in those exceptional areas which Britain might refuse to agree upon, then he is defining for himself a very narrow freedom for manoeuvre. Britain would still remain vulnerable to having legislation imposed upon it in most areas of working conditions and benefits. As for the exceptions, it is already apparent that, when the other 14 states find themselves in agreement on a social matter, they use any means possible to impose it upon Britain under a procedure that involves majority voting. For instance, limits on working hours have been

subsumed into health and safety legislation. So it is likely that, were Mr Blair to sign up to the social chapter and veto a proposal that required unanimity, it would simply be pushed through with majority voting.

There is a far more logical approach for Labour to adopt, which would be in keeping with Mr Blair's avowed dedication to improving Britain's competitiveness. That is to retain for this country true flexibility in deciding which of the social chapter's provisions to adopt. The opt-out from the chapter, so hard-won at Maastricht, would allow a Labour government to put into domestic law any of the proposals that it believed desirable while omitting any that it believed contrary to the British economy's interests.

This flexibility would extend into the future. For, by signing up to the social chapter, Labour would be writing a blank cheque for future proposals. Britain would, of course, have the influence which Mr Blair and the Foreign Office so prize. But influence is not power. It is possible to influence an argument without winning it. In a club with 15 members, no single country can ensure, simply by its presence at the negotiating table, that its case will be victorious.

The truth is that Britain is in an enviable (and much envied) position. As a result of the opt-out, it can adopt whatever social legislation it likes — and reject the rest. Why should this country want so badly to influence what the others choose to do, at the expense of losing this freedom? By remaining outside the social chapter, Britain has become a magnet for outside direct investment: only yesterday, the Taiwanese company Chunghwa Picture Tube announced a £260 million investment in an electronics factory in Ravenscraig which will create 3,300 jobs, more than any other inward investment in the UK's history. To throw away such a precious competitive advantage would be madness.

ANGLO-IRISH DISAGREEMENT

A decade of diplomacy over Ulster's future

Ten years ago today, the Anglo-Irish agreement was signed by Margaret Thatcher and Garret Fitzgerald at Hillsborough Castle. The immediate sequel was the resignation of Ian Gow, the Treasury Minister later murdered by the IRA, on the ground that "the involvement of a foreign power... will prolong, and not diminish, Ulster's agony". In an outburst hysterical even by his own standards, the Rev Ian Paisley described the then Prime Minister as a "wicked, treacherous lying woman". Fifteen Unionist MPs resigned their seats shortly after.

A decade later, the legacy of the Agreement is still a matter of acrimonious debate. In her memoirs, Baroness Thatcher says its results were "disappointing" and alienated Unionists "without gaining the level of security co-operation we had a right to expect". The agreement's defenders would say it has been vindicated by the Downing Street declaration, the IRA ceasefire and the imminent visit of President Clinton to the Province.

The agreement is certainly one of the most sweeping constitutional measures in the history of the United Kingdom. Its first article established the crucial principle that "consent of a majority of the people of Northern Ireland" was required for any change in its status. This check on nationalist aspirations has been at the heart of the Government's campaign to persuade the Unionist community that it is not about to be betrayed. The Downing Street declaration would have been impossible without this earlier endorsement by both Governments of what is crudely called the "Unionist veto".

The cost of this recognition by Dublin was considerable, however. The agreement established an inter-governmental conference to deal with political, legal and security matters and the encouragement of cross-border co-operation. It gave the Irish Government an institutional say in the affairs of the Province, somewhere between consultative rights and full joint authority. In this sense, the 1985 agreement was the

direct ancestor of this year's Anglo-Irish framework document which proposed far more extensive powers for the South as part of any future settlement. The constitutional trend to which the Hillsborough summit gave rise has been manifestly green-tinted. The British Government continues to reassure the people of Ulster that nothing will be done without their agreement. But the Unionists fear they will soon be confronted with a Hobson's choice between a return to bloodshed or a constitutional package which heavily favours the pan-nationalist front.

Anglo-Irish diplomacy may be necessary but it is not sufficient for a lasting peace. Like the Irish Government's cancellation of the Ulster summit in September, John Bruton's profoundly ill judged speech at the weekend showed how unpredictable relations between Dublin and Whitehall can be. In a thinly veiled attack on John Major's management of the peace process, the Taoiseach demanded compromise from the British Government and insisted that the obstacles to peace were "comparatively minor in historical terms" and "little more than semantic". This is delusion on a grand scale. Insisting that Sinn Féin-IRA begin disarmament before its representatives are admitted to all-party talks is absolutely fundamental to the future of the peace. Unionist politicians should not be expected to negotiate with men retaining the option to bomb them; nor will they do so.

Mr Bruton's speech was a reminder that a lasting settlement is not in the gift of the British and Irish Governments. The Taoiseach must please his nationalist compatriots; he must heed the concerns of republican paramilitaries. Given his weakness in the Commons, Mr Major must also appease David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist leader, far more than he may wish to do. The Anglo-Irish agreement has spawned many clauses. What it cannot spawn is a lasting settlement. It is Ulster's people, not diplomats, who will decide the prospects of peace.

SIX FOR A POUND

Vegetables are the finest works of pavement art around

Celestial globe, cup of platinum, Motionless dance of frosted anemone.

The poet Pablo Neruda wrote these lines not from love for a woman, nor as a variation on a goblet from the classics, but in praise of the ordinary onion. Yes, the onion. "Bleedin' amazing!" — as they would have said in the old Covent Garden — that a vegetable should have moved a poet so. Bleeding amazing indeed, and bleeding beetroot too.

But that is not all. The Chilean Nobel laureate wrote elegant odes also to the artichoke "dressed in armour", and of the tomato's "benign majesty". A touch over the top, all this poetry about bulbs and tubers? Some of you might think so, but Brian Godfrey will surely disagree.

He may or may not have read Neruda — and the chances are that he has not — but this hard-pressed Ilkeston greengrocer shares the poet's love for vegetables. He is battling against Derbyshire County Council in court for the right to sell his veg from the pavement outside his shop. The case continues, and the common law — long of root and hardy of stem — will take its course.

Yet the matter is a straightforward one: if not on a plate or in a field, the place of the vegetable is surely on the pavement. Vegetables

are best seen out of doors, where they catch the light and the eye of passers-by. Force them indoors and they will, like children confined, lose their lustre. And those who go about their business on foot will be robbed of the sight of a coloured cornucopia.

Consider the glow of the radish, lambent in the soft sun of mid-November; or admire the cabbage, with its flamenco dancer's flounces. Linger awhile by those carrots of strong orange dress and subtle plume, laid side by side like so many soldiers at rest; and rejoice, also, in those roadside courgettes, with their exultant length and perky green.

But the empress of the British pavement, the greengrocer's Helen of Troy, is unquestionably the aubergine. As lustrous as any flower, it is the vegetable for whom Shakespeare might so easily have written these lines from his *Sonnet XCIX*: "The purple pride which on thy soft cheek for complexion dwells." What could the killjoy council possibly have against Mr Godfrey's pavement harem of aubergines?

The aesthetic case for Mr Godfrey is unanswerable. And as any jaded pedestrian in our cities and towns will testify, the best pavement art is to be found in the country's vegetable stalls.

Sentencing power of Home Secretary

From Professor Philip F. Esler

Sir, Commenting on the High Court's latest overturning of a decision by Mr Michael Howard, this time his increasing a sentence in a murder case, Mr Peter Butler, a Tory member of the Home Affairs Select Committee, calls for legislation to confirm the Home Secretary's power, apparently on the grounds that "there has to be some procedure whereby an obviously too lenient sentence can be increased" (report, earlier editions, November 11).

That's funny, I thought there was. It's called the appellate system. It is a fundamental aspect of the rule of law that persons in the same situation be treated equally, and the only way to achieve this is through a hierarchy of appeal courts like ours which enforces uniform rules and guidelines on lower courts. Popular opinion, of course, influences the process — by electing governments to pass laws of general application, which will then be applied by the courts uniformly in accordance with this principle.

The very existence of an executive power vested in the Home Secretary to increase criminal sentences in certain very serious cases (eg, those carrying mandatory life sentences) is patently inimical to the rule of law; that Mr Howard, one of Her Majesty's Counsel after all, should actually use it, continues to amaze me.

To the extent that he acts (as he apparently did in the case of the Bulger murderers) after receiving submissions from the public, he is conducting a modern equivalent of the lynch-mob. Moreover, does not the exercise of the power have a tendency (even if not the intention) to win votes among sectors of the public often inflamed by tabloid journalism and thinking more with their hearts than their heads?

We do indeed need legislation, not to confirm this odious power, but to abolish it.

Yours faithfully,

PHILIP F. ESLE
(Dean),
School of Divinity,
University of St Andrews,
St Mary's College,
St Andrews, Fife,
November 13.

Wedding menace

From Dr Anne-Carole Chamier

Sir, I do not wish to be invited to another wedding because I won't go — unless I'm assured that no professional photographers will be in attendance. Weddings these days are conducted for their benefit; forget about a solemn ceremony followed by convivial celebration for family and friends.

From start to finish there's a flash every five seconds and captive guests are kept waiting about for hours whilst enough groups and poses are snapped to fill a library of family albums.

Here, we attended a wedding where guests were kept waiting an hour outside the church whilst the photographers were in action, and saw nothing of the bride and groom at the reception because they were away with the photographers for an hour and a half.

Anyone would think marriages were for ever and ever.

Yours etc,
CAROLE CHAMIER,
Acharn House,
Acharn, By Alass,
Ross and Cromarty,
November 11.

Bankside Tate

From Mr Michael Deacon

Sir, In his distaste for the "ugly carcass" of Sir Giles Gilbert Scott's Bankside Power Station (letter, November 11), your correspondent may care to reflect that "modern masters" have brought us the British Library and the National Theatre. No doubt these designs have their adherents, but so, too, does the Bankside Power Station.

Scott's blend of function and beauty is exemplified in architecture and design as diverse as Waterloo Bridge, Liverpool's Anglican cathedral, the red telephone box and even the electricity pylon.

The work of no other architect of this century could be more fitting as the flagship for the Tate. I hope that the planned "transformation" will leave as much intact as possible.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL DEACON,
75 Acre Road, SW19,
November 13.

Protection of fungi

From Mrs Ann Kneif

Sir, I was appalled to read ("Beware of the fungi to die for", Weekend, November 11) that so many fungi in the New Forest are being sold to expensive restaurants in London. The £300,000 turnover a year mentioned indicates a virtual devastation of this area.

It is time the Government devised the same protection for fungi as for wild flowers.

Yours faithfully,
ANN KNEIF,
Hilton House,
Norwood Lane, Meopham, Kent.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Role of ministers over immunity

From Mr Douglas Hurd, MP for Witney (Conservative)

Sir, Mr Levin's article today, "A cover-up beyond belief", prompts me to write in lay rather than legal language about public interest immunity certificates as they appear to a minister, before misunderstanding or misrepresentation becomes universal.

He is plain wrong about the certificates which Michael Howard and I signed on the recent appeal in the Greccan case (report, November 8). What we proposed about documents in those certificates was endorsed by the Lord Chief Justice, with minor changes. He says so on page eight of his judgment. He goes out of his way to explain the limited protection which we sought for some documents. Newspapers which reported otherwise have now had to withdraw.

The certificate which a minister may be asked to sign relates to documents, not to a trial. The publication of certain documents, or parts of certain documents, can harm the national interest. They may reveal the names or techniques of intelligence agents. They may cover transactions or conversations with foreign govern-

ments which we have agreed to keep confidential.

A minister can weigh these matters and certify accordingly. What a minister cannot effectively do is balance that judgment against the needs of justice in a particular trial, of which he almost certainly will have no direct knowledge. Only the judge can weigh the public interest as certified by the minister against the importance of those documents for establishing guilt or innocence. So a minister can "gag" no one. The difficulty arises if a minister is invited to try his hand at striking the balance which should be the preserve of the judge.

As I pointed out in the last certificate which I signed, in the Greccan case, this would set the minister a task which he cannot reasonably fulfil. His concern in considering the certificate should be, as Mr Levin put it, with "genuine dangers concerning the State". That is how I, and I believe my colleagues, have handled their responsibility.

Yours faithfully,
DOUGLAS HURD,
House of Commons,
November 10.

Limiting the harm caused by drugs

From Mr Stewart Walker

Sir, My heart goes out to the family of Leah Betts, the girl who slipped into a coma on Sunday after taking an apparently contaminated Ecstasy tablet (report, November 13). However, whether or not the tablet was contaminated, I do not consider that this case adds any fuel to the argument against the legislation of some drugs.

As the Dutch Labour Party pointed out in a recent campaign, bringing the more freely available drugs within the bounds of law would mean that their production and distribution would be controlled. In the case of tablets such as Ecstasy, the tablets would no longer be made by criminals and they would not contain impurities such as those which have caused harm to young people in the past.

Thousands of pills are taken every weekend, in all parts of the country. To deny this, or to assume that there is an easy way of stopping it, is unrealistic. It is time the Government listened to the advice of many doctors and senior policemen and seriously considered cutting the ground from under the criminal fraternity.

Yours sincerely,
STEWART WALKER,
217 Kensington Lane, SE11,
November 14.

Empire benefits

From Mr Rajnikant J. Mehta

Sir, Whether or not the British Empire was beneficial to the colonies (Robert Rhodes James, "Now that the sun has gone down", November 3; letters, November 9) depends partly on who looks at it — the erstwhile rulers or those who were colonised. For instance, the fact that Indo-British friendship today is as strong as it was when India became independent — indeed stronger — is in no small measure due to the benevolent and far-sighted influence of Mahatma Gandhi and Nehru.

These great Indians unequivocally told their countrymen that it was British rule that they had to fight and not the British people, for whom there should be nothing but love and respect. The non-violence which the Mahatma preached and practised also included "non-violence in thought", which clearly meant that there was no place for any hatred towards the erstwhile rulers.

Yours truly, as one who lived in colonial India,
RAJNIKANT J. MEHTA,
18 Leigh Court, Byron Hill Road,
Harrow on the Hill, Middlesex.

Women artists

From Ms Marjorie Allthorpe-Guyton

Sir, Richard Morrison's lament on the place of women in British art ("Why won't men pass on the baton?", Arts, November 11) mischievously diverts attention from the true influence of women in the visual arts.

While the directors of our museum collections may still be men, almost all of our major contemporary art galleries are run by women: Arncliffe, Ikon, Camden Arts Centre, ICA, Serpentine, Whitechapel. The directors of visual arts of both the Arts Council and the British Council are women.

All of us support a growing number

From Mr Hermann Arndt

Sir, Why on earth should we call this dangerous drug "Ecstasy", a name presumably coined by criminals to make it more appealing to unsuspecting youngsters?

During the war we had an important section of our intelligence community called the Psychological Warfare Branch whose job was to fight the enemy with slogans and to counter enemy slogans. We could use such an instrument today in the fight against drugs.

Yours sincerely,
HERMANN ARNDT,
Castlehay, Woodbury, Devon,
November 14.

From Mr N. Bristow

Sir, You report today that a description of the suspect tablet was circulated to police forces around the country. What good is this? Surely the description should have been made available, via the media, to all at risk of taking such tablets.

Yours faithfully,
N. BRISTOW,
17 Dudley Street,
Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire,
November 14.

From Mr N. J. Clark

Sir, As a teacher of Australian history, I am disappointed by Professor Day's unduly harsh remarks about British imperialism (letter, November 9).

Captain Cook's men did indeed shoot some Maoris in self-defence but the number was not "countless". Nor can anybody say what the Aboriginal population of Australia was in 1788. It is "perhaps" higher now than it was then.

Certainly there was no systematic military campaign directed against Aborigines. Our first Governor, Arthur Phillip, hanged Europeans for interfering with the Aboriginal people.

It is rarely acknowledged by revisionist historians that well over a century ago Aboriginal Australians had the right to vote in New South Wales and Victoria.

Perhaps the British imperialists deserve a point or two?

Yours sincerely,
NEVILLE CLARK
(Headmaster),
Mentone Grammar School,
63 Venice Street,
Mentone, Victoria 3194,
Australia,
November 9.

of internationally recognised women artists: 15 of the 25 young artists in the British Art Show just opened in Manchester are women (compared with the handful of women artists in the 1984 show of which I was a selector). A woman, Rachel Whiteread, created one of the most widely acclaimed works of art produced in Britain in recent years.

Sleeping Beauty is awake and has no need of princes.

Yours sincerely,
MARJORIE ALLTHORPE-
GUYTON,
of Visual Arts,
The Arts Council of England,
14 Great Peter Street, SW1.

monitoring how it is used. Indeed, ultimately the question of legal controls on materials which infringe (for example) anti-racist legislation will surely have to be faced.

Yours sincerely,
EDWARD TIMMS
(Director),
Centre for German-Jewish Studies,
University of Sussex,
Falmer, Brighton BN1 9QN.

Letters for publication should carry contact telephone numbers. We regret that we cannot accept letters by telephone but they may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5046.

Debate on listing of tower blocks

From Mr A. J. Clement

Sir, Reading Rachel Kelly's article on the fate of tower blocks ("High hopes for the hated high-rise", Homes, November 8) confirmed my worst suspicions about the threat to listing and preserving postwar architecture. The tower block is under attack because it represents a period most of us would rather forget: a time when all the vision and meaning of Le Corbusier was tossed aside in favour of concrete-clad system buildings.

We cannot turn our backs arbitrarily on a species of architecture which we view today as rather embarrassing. We must preserve a stock of architecture from the 1950s and 1960s because eventually there will be none left to preserve. How can we possibly hope to fully understand architecture today when we are unable to see at first-hand what came before?

It seems to me that the listing of modern buildings to date has been rather too vague. English Heritage and the Department of Heritage should jointly lay down more precise criteria for the preservation of modern buildings: to choose popular examples and well known architects that are safe and politically correct is not enough. We need to preserve a full spectrum of structures from local authority through to bespoke "designer" examples. The choices must be based on form, content, style and influence, regardless of origin.

The concept of preservation should also be reviewed and its application to modern structures considered in the same light as is applied to more ancient buildings. Why should concrete tower blocks be refaced in brick, have all the ribbon windows replaced by casements and the interior gutted so that the "preserved" building bears no resemblance to the original? For heaven's sake don't let them do that to Denys Lasdun's Keeling House in Bethnal Green. I really would rather they pulled it down.

Yours faithfully,
ALEXANDER CLEMENT,
147b Lichfield Street,
Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent,
Staffordshire.

From Sir Denys Lasdun, CH

Sir, The rejection by the Heritage Lottery Fund of the Peabody Trust's application to seek money to restore Keeling House — a Grade II* listed building — implies that Lottery funds will not be available for the restoration of modern buildings (report, November 2). Keeling House is structurally sound and, subject to restoration, would provide 60 homes in a building much loved by previous occupants.

The recent past is just as worthy of respect as the distant past — and it needs it much more. We have a greater responsibility for modern buildings. We must hand them on to posterity unimpaired with.

Yours faithfully,
DENYS LASDUN,
Denys Lasdun Peter Sotley & Associates (architects),
146 Grosvenor Road, SW1.

From Ms Ann Brooks

Sir, I too had high hopes when I started to buy my new home, a completely refurbished flat in a refurbished tower block in Putney. Literally thousands of first-time buyers and council tenants in Wandsworth borough alone have paid between £30,000 and £60,000 for our homes since the mid-80s, but the intervening years have dashed our hopes.

So what's the problem? Negative equity? We should be so lucky. The banks and building societies which actually set up stalls in show homes to tempt potential buyers in the 1980s have now "redlined" our homes and are refusing to lend on any of them, even though the majority of these tower blocks are structurally sound.

This means that our homes have no market value at all. Most of the flats in my block were sold to single people and young childless couples — many of whom have started families and find that they and their children have become a new generation of young families stranded high in the sky.

Yours faithfully,
ANN BROOKES,
4 William Harvey House,
Whitlock Drive, SW19.

Food fears

From Dr J. N. Fawcett

Sir, I am sure that stress, induced by worrying about what one eats and drinks, will soon become the major cause of heart attack (reports, November 13, 14).

Yours sincerely,
J. NEVILLE FAWCETT,
15 Littledean, Lodore Road,
Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne,
November 14.

To each according

From Mr Paul Droop

Sir, I note that MPs' pay in this country is among the lowest in your chart of 14 comparable nations (November 14). It's good to see the Government taking the lead on performance-related pay.

Yours sincerely,
PAUL DROOP,
88 Clarence Road,
Wimbledon, SW19,
November 14.

OBITUARIES

BRIGADIER MICHAEL WINGATE GRAY

Brigadier Michael Wingate Gray, OBE, MC and Bar, a former director of the Special Air Service (SAS), died on November 3 aged 74. He was born on July 17, 1921.

MIKE WINGATE GRAY was the last survivor of the "Four Musketeers", a quartet of young officers who helped to reconstitute the 1st Black Watch after the evacuation of the 51st (Highland) Division. He then fought with it at El Alamein and through Italy. He later became an almost legendary leader of the Special Air Service, commanding the 22nd Regiment SAS in southern Arabia in the early 1960s, and in the Borneo jungle during Britain's successful four-year confrontation with Indonesia, between 1962 and 1966.

Wingate Gray won his first Military Cross through an act of breathtaking bravery in Sicily in 1943 when his company of the Black Watch came under intense mortar and machinegun fire at Gerbini, taking heavy casualties. Every pillbox and house, which were previously thought to have been cleared, opened up as his platoon approached on July 21 — just four days after the subaltern's 22nd birthday — subjecting the Highlanders to a terrifying hail of bullets.

His citation read: "Seeing a machinegun post which was causing particular trouble he seized a light machinegun, leapt into a Bren gun carrier and yelling at the driver to go straight at it, charged the post — standing up and firing his Bren gun from the shoulder."

"As soon as the carrier started to move forward, every available Boche machinegun was directed against him. But the carrier went on and, seeing that they could not stop it, the post broke up and ran, hotly pursued by the carrier. Lieutenant Wingate Gray shot dead five men and wounded several others."



The citation continued: "The advance then continued. Had it not been for his personal courage and quick grasp of the situation the platoon might have been wiped out. His action put new life into the company who were watching the whole incident."

He won his second MC in October 1944, when he was an intelligence officer with 154 Brigade and a gifted linguist — fluent in German, Russian and French. It reflected the part he played in negotiating a truce with the Germans and the French during the fighting which followed D-Day, enabling some 20,000 civilians and wounded troops to be evacuated.

Walter Michael Wingate Gray was born in Edinburgh, the son of a colonel in the Royal Horse Artillery. He went to Wellington College and spent some time learning languages under the guidance of a White Russian woman in London before being commissioned into the Black Watch in 1941. His excellent French and German made

him extremely useful as an interpreter in the administration of occupied Germany in the immediate postwar period.

He went to staff college after spending some time as adjutant of his old battalion in the late 1940s — and later went to the Joint Services Staff College at Latimer, Buckinghamshire. He served as a staff officer at Suez and ended the 1950s as an intelligence officer in the headquarters of the British Army of the Rhine.

In 1963 he was placed in charge of the Black Watch band on a tour of the United States. He sat beside President Kennedy at a concert on the White House lawn and shortly afterwards had the sad duty of arranging for regimental pipers to play a lament at the President's funeral.

Although he was disappointed not to be given command of the 1st Battalion Black Watch, he was to receive more than adequate compensation. The SAS were scouting around for their next commander. Reconstituted only 13 years before (after being disbanded at the end of the war) the regiment was still short of top-class leaders. Forced to cast their net further afield in their search for a talent, they found just the man they were looking for in Wingate Gray. Their only concerns were his age and his total lack of SAS experience.

As it happened, however, the regiment also required a new second-in-command, after the last one had been killed in action in Borneo. So they gave the No 2 post to Wingate Gray, to see if he was indeed made of the right stuff. He was. He insisted on taking the selection course — although some 15 years older than the others on it. Moreover, he had just returned from America where he had drunk the best part of a bottle of whisky a night for the previous two months as part of the endless round of entertaining. He started the gruelling course on the Brecon Beacons on the very morning after he had flown back across the Atlantic.

He not only passed the course with flying colours but, after a brilliant performance as second-in-command, took over as commanding officer 12 months later and led 22nd SAS for more than two years. One of his strengths was the level of trust which he placed in his squadron commanders, allowing them their freedom of action while on operations. But if anything ever went wrong and men were killed, Wingate Gray always personally accepted complete responsibility. Among his protégés was General Sir Peter de la Billiere, who was later himself to lead the SAS with distinction and who commanded British forces in the Gulf War.

As a brigadier, Wingate Gray went on to become director of the SAS (including the two TA regiments) on the staff. He also served as deputy fortress commander in Gibraltar before embarking on his final job as military attaché in the British Embassy in Paris.

After retiring in 1973 Wingate Gray worked for the security services for a while — and also for a French firm making catamarans near Southampton. An accomplished golfer who played for the Army at one time, he now took up sailing instead. He sailed in his own boat both in this country and the Mediterranean and competed in at least one transatlantic yacht race.

But he was more than just a charismatic extrovert. He was a voracious reader with a sharp intellect and an inner reserve which suggested a deeper and more complex personality.

Mike Wingate Gray, who had had a recent history of heart disease, died while waiting to enter hospital for a heart valve replacement. His first marriage ended in divorce and he is survived by his second wife Sybil and by two sons, one from his first marriage and one from his second. Another son from his second marriage died in 1972 while still a schoolboy at Wellington College.

DAVID HEALY

David Healy, actor, died after a heart operation in London on October 25 aged 66. He was born in New York on May 15, 1929.



David Healy as Gerald Lyman, with Pippa Hinchley in *Bus Stop*, 1990

DAVID HEALY was an actor of Falstaffian proportions who cornered the market on the West End stage in playing exuberant Americans. The high point of his career came in middle age, when Richard Eyre cast him as Nicely-Nicely Johnson in *Gyps and Dolls* (1982) at the National Theatre. It was the first full-scale musical the National had staged, and the show had an enormously bracing effect on a company trained in the classics. On the first night, when Healy led the cast in a rousing rendition of *Sit down, you're rocking the boat*, many of his young colleagues were completely overwhelmed by the audience's enthusiastic reception. By the following evening, Eyre had blocked in an encore, and so Healy remained for the rest of the year, winning ovations every night.

David Healy was born and brought up in New York until he was 18, when the family moved to Texas. His father was Australian and his mother an American, both of them radio stars. Healy had his first performing experience in the family's radio show, *At Home with the Heals*, which went out live from their living room.

He studied drama at Texas University, and looked set to follow the family tradition into radio by landing a job as a disc jockey on all-night radio. Instead, circumstances thrust him onto the stage. While he was doing his National Service with the USAF, he was offered the choice of being posted to the Caribbean, Germany or England. He was tempted to ask for England as his first choice. But, working on the theory that one should never volunteer for anything in the Forces, he changed his mind, and asked to go to Germany, the Caribbean and England in that order. As he had predicted, he was immediately posted to England.

He arrived in 1955, along with his friend and fellow Texan Larry Hagman (later

J. R. Ewing in *Dallas*), and it was swiftly decided that he would be more useful as a morale-raiser than as a fighter. Thus it was that Healy joined the concert party *On Target*, which toured bases in Britain and Germany.

Healy left the show in 1964, to begin his professional acting career. As an American in London, he modestly noted that back home there might be twenty men who looked and sounded exactly like him, and who were more talented. But here in Britain, there was only one Healy. He was fortunate to be, in his own estimation, "a big fish in a little pond".

A spell at the Royal Shakespeare Company, 1967-69, was followed by two decades on the London stage. He appeared in three productions written by Jules Feiffer — *Crawling Arnold* at the New Arts Theatre (1964), *Feiffer's America* at the Lyric, Hammersmith (1982) and *Little Murders* when he joined the RSC. It was there, ten years later, that he briefly took over as Falstaff in *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, having recently played the part at the Dallas Shakespeare Festival.

But musicals were his real forte. He appeared in *Anne of Green Gables* (1969), *On the Twentieth Century* and *Songbook* (both 1979) before doing *Gyps and Dolls* at the Nat-

ional (for which he won the Olivier Award for best supporting actor), remaining with it when the show transferred to the West End. He scored another success playing *Buddy* in Stephen Sondheim's *Follies* at the Shaftesbury Theatre (1987), and more recently there was *Bus Stop* with Jerry Hall, at the Lyric (1989-90). He gave his final West End performance, and one of his best, in Arthur Miller's *The Last Yankee*, with Zoë Wanamaker, at the Duke of York's (1993).

Healy loved London, but he was not immune to the money he could make in the States. He spent five months there in 1967, but found he missed his family (he had an English wife) and, thereafter, would work only two months a year in America. He never appeared in a Broadway musical but he played *Birdboot* in an off-Broadway revival of Tom Stoppard's *The Real Inspector Hound* (1992) and appeared on American television in *Dallas* and *Charlie's Angels*. He did not regret his choice, and wistful dreams of Hollywood could easily be erased by the prospect of a day's fishing on the River Kennet.

He met his wife Peggy at the stables where he used to ride in Richmond. She survives him, together with their two sons.

PROFESSOR ERIC BIRLEY

Eric Birley, MBE, FBA, Professor of Romano-British History and Archaeology at Durham University, 1956-71, died on October 20 aged 89. He was born on January 12, 1906.

THROUGH his innovative publications and inspirational teaching, Eric Birley earned a place as a leader in the field of Romano-British history, especially in the area of study of Roman frontiers and the Roman Army. Under the direction of F.G. Simpson, he played a crucial role during the 1929 Birdoswald excavation of Hadrian's Wall. Using the evidence of inscriptions he deduced that there had been four main stages in the building of the wall which in their turn reflected the history of Roman Britain. His theories were to dominate studies of the wall for the next fifty years.

For thirty years, as president of northern Britain's two most ancient archaeological societies, the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society



and the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle upon Tyne, he published papers in their respective journals which kept him at the forefront of his

field. His studies in this area were to culminate in his *Research on Hadrian's Wall*, published in 1961.

Birley also pursued a colla-

teral interest in the Roman Army, a subject on which he wrote several papers, eventually gathered together in 1953 in his book *Roman Britain and the Roman Army*.

For fifteen years he was Professor of Romano-British History and Archaeology at Durham University. In 1969 he was elected a Fellow of the British Academy.

Eric Birley was educated at Clifton and at Brasenose College, Oxford, where, studying under R.G. Collingwood, his interest in Hadrian's Wall was first awakened.

In 1931 he embarked on an academic career with an appointment at the University of Durham. At first he was associated principally with the excavations he helped to carry out at various forts in the vicinity of the wall as well as around the towers and castles forming part of the wall itself. But when, using evidence obtained from the dating of pottery shards, he challenged the theories of George Macdonald concerning the duration of Roman occupation in

the North, he gained respect as a student of pottery. He also earned an international reputation as a scholar of the Roman Army.

During the Second World War Birley worked for military intelligence, studying the number and disposition of the divisions of the German Army, the careers of its senior officers and significance of their appointments. He was appointed MBE in 1943.

His service days gave him new insights into the functioning of the Roman Army and after the war he returned to the study of this, writing and publishing a series of papers. He was acknowledged as the successor to Alfred Domaszewski, author of that magisterial work on the Roman Army, *Rangordnung des römischen Heeres* (1908). Much of his work was later reprinted in 1954 in his *The Roman Army: Papers 1929-1986*. Birley was also further developing his interest in Hadrian's Wall at this time, setting the wall firmly in the context of Roman frontier studies.

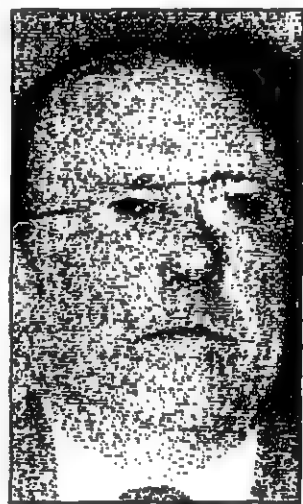
Birley transmitted his enthusiasms to many of his pupils who went on to become experts in the field. Before the war these included John Gillingham and George Jobey of the University of Newcastle, Kenneth Steer of Scotland's Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments, and Peter Wenham of St John's College, York.

After the war, in a department of archaeology, housed first in a hut in the grounds of Hatfield College (of which he was Master from 1949 to 1956) and later in the picturesque Old Fulham Mill, Birley, together with a number of students attracted by his already formidable reputation, continued to create the Birley or Durham school. Birley was an indefatigable correspondent and many scholars in other countries acknowledged their debt to him. In 1966 Heidelberg University gave him an honorary doctorate.

Eric Birley is survived by his wife Peggy, together with their two sons, both of whom are involved in archaeological studies.

MICHEL PECQUEUR

Michel Pecqueur, former president of both the Commissariat à l'énergie atomique and the Elf-Aquitaine oil group, died in Paris on October 13 aged 64. He was born on August 18, 1931.



MICHEL PECQUEUR was one of those men the French call "un grand serviteur de l'Etat". He was never active in politics, although he was at the heart of the expansion during what are referred to now, with more than a touch of nostalgia, as "the 30 glorious years", the 1960s to 1980s, when France moved up to become the world's fourth economic power.

He was born and educated in Paris, and then trained as an engineer, graduating from the École nationale supérieure des mines and the École polytechnique. Afterwards he rose to become head of the Commissariat à l'énergie atomique (CEA), where he played a key role over a period of 25 years between 1958 and 1983.

He joined the CEA just as General de Gaulle's reign was starting, and by supervising the construction of the enriched uranium 235 plant at Pierrelatte, in the South of France, he was instrumental in implementing de Gaulle's independent nuclear strategy.

Built not far from Orange in the Rhône Valley, Pierrelatte was a mammoth undertaking, yet was built on time. It provided the raw material for the nuclear warheads equipping de Gaulle's force de frappe (nuclear strike force)

composed of Mirage IV bombers and missiles on the Plateau d'Albion, also near to the tourist regions of Provence.

Pecqueur later built the equally large Eurodif nuclear centre at Tricastin, next to the Pierrelatte plant, where the French developed their gas diffusion enrichment process for industrial use. After this building phase, Pecqueur occupied several key posts at the CEA, such as director of the enriched uranium department, 1966-70, and director of the department dealing with industrial uses of nuclear energy, 1970-74. He helped to build Cogema (nuclear fuels) and Framatome (nuclear power stations) as important industrial arms of the CEA, and worked with Electricité de France to build a string of nuclear power stations across the country.

As president of the CEA between 1978 and 1983 he obtained permission from the

Socialist Government to build the big nuclear reprocessing plant at La Hague, near Cherbourg. This became a target for Greenpeace, but Pecqueur, who headed several environmental bodies, including that of the French Employers Association, argued that the nuclear industry, as conceived in France, was not a threat.

He next became president of Elf-Aquitaine, the oil chemicals and pharmaceutical group, during a crucial six-year period of expansion in the 1980s. He made acquisitions totalling some FF1 billion, restructuring the chemical side, now one of the major parts of the group, rationalising refining and developing the pharmaceutical sector, around Sanofi. Profits soared under his leadership and by the time of his departure in 1989 he had set Elf firmly on the road to becoming France's largest company with an annual turnover of around FF200 billion.

Despite his unique experience in running two major nationalised industries, he acquired few of the trappings associated with senior Gaullist arm managers, most of whom ran their sectors as personal fiefdoms.

Although Pecqueur kept contact with the nuclear sector by presiding over the uranium mining company in Gabon, he concentrated mainly on the oil sector after leaving Elf-Aquitaine. One of his chief posts was vice-president of Erap (Entreprise de recherches et activités pétrolières).

He is survived by his wife and daughter.

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THE WAR IN THE CRIMEA

(FROM A SOLDIER OF THE 6th.)

Heights above Sebastopol, Oct. 24.
We are now encamped on the heights overlooking Sebastopol, and have been firing shot, shell, and rockets into it as fast as we can, but with very little result: for it is a very strong place, with a very powerful army and numerous guns, which are played upon us night and day, though thank God, they have done us very little harm, but I have no doubt that before it is taken there will be a great many lives lost, and besides so strong a garrison in front, we have to contend with a numerous army behind, the remnant of that army defeated at the Alma on 20th of September, of which you have heard a more correct statement than what I have time to give you through the medium of the newspapers. On 25th inst. we had to turn out in all haste, for the Russians in our rear had attacked and taken two of the batteries belonging to the sleepy Turks, and they retired from their works, leaving their guns loaded, to be spiked by the Russians without firing a single shot. We, of course, work and retake the batteries, but with a very severe loss of our brave cavalry, for we lost about 700 men and a great number of horses, but very few infantry; the artillery suffered very much,

ON THIS DAY

November 15, 1854

Private letters from the front passed on to The Times provided a personal touch to complement the reports from our correspondents.

and the cavalry regiments are very nearly all cut up. It is a very easy thing to talk of war, but it is a very different thing to take a part in it, or to view the field after it is all over — to see the mangled bodies lying in all directions, their limbs torn and broken to pieces, and some of them obliged to remain in the fields for some days before they can be attended to. But in all these affairs the Russians have suffered far the most; and on the 26th a party of from 6,000 to 8,000 endeavoured to make their escape from Sebastopol, but were soon found out and a great many killed, with about 800 prisoners, and the rest made good their

re-ent. But I can assure you it is a very hard duty, for we have not been undressed for more than two months, nor can we take off our boots; and we were a very long time without tents, so that we had to sleep in the open air without any covering but one blanket and a greatcoat, and we are very often for four or five nights together without any sleep and at very hard work in the trenches, or watching the enemy while others work. The weather has been very favourable to our cause ever since we landed in Russia. If the winter or wet season sets in it will be very soon that our ranks, and we must abandon the enterprise. But I must leave off talking about war and turn to something else. I hear that the division of the army to which our regiment belongs, after the war is over, is to proceed to England; if so, and I should survive, I shall endeavour to come home once more, and shall hope, by God's blessing, to see you all well again, when I am free from the din of war and the roar of cannon, for while I am writing these few lines, which I am obliged to do while sitting on the ground, the Russians are throwing shot and shell at us as fast as they can, and also on our men, and no signs of a finish. But I must request you to remember me kindly to all my friends, perhaps for the last time; but I trust in God to see you all again.

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Since the BBC's World Television Service was dropped from Asiasat, cable and pay-TV are a growth industry in China and Taiwan

A captive audience — but for how long?

I had heard that satellite reception was illegal in China but on my first visit I was too transfixed by the visible effects of the "one-child" policy to count dishes. In crowd after crowd, in the urban congestion of Canton, Shanghai and Peking it would have been easier to spot an adult with two heads as with two children.

Such scant evidence of our species below the age of five that I could see appeared to be almost all male: overweight, overdressed little trophy-sons. "Oh, people do have girls," a scientist laughingly told me, "but they keep them at home. They like to show off their boys."

The satellite dish ban seemed less rigorously applied than the two-child ban. There were plenty of dishes, large and conspicuous, on top of the many gleaming tall buildings. Not illegal, most of them, I learnt, just regulated. Individuals or organisations must, since last year, get government approval. This is readily granted

to those allowed an ear on the outside world — hotels above three stars, blocks of flats where foreigners live, and certain official and financial organisations. Then, too, there are licensed cable systems, showing permitted satellite channels to the domestic audience.

But satellites and children are related — oh yes. The global television systems trying to reach the Chinese-speaking market have the younger generation firmly in their sights.

At the moment, foreign television reaches the mainland Chinese audience mainly by overspill. The main target is Taiwan. Affluent, Western-orientated, the audience there is lapping up the entertainment, sports and pop music offered by international channels. As the most cabled place in Asia — 90 per cent of the population hooked — Taiwan is

well placed to sell pay-TV, the only way the satellite channel providers can get their money back.

Two rival providers, based in Hong Kong, gave me remarkably similar sociological analyses of the Asian scene. Gary Davey, chief executive of Star TV, now wholly owned by The News Corporation (parent company of *The Times*) said: "This generation of young parents is giving their kids a new deal." Children are indulged, he said, as long as they study.

At Turner International, which for a year has been providing a popular children's cartoon channel, as well as its Cable News Network International, Ted MacFarland, head of Asian operations, said: "Asian parents dote on their children. They reward them with TV for hitting the books." But he said children in Asia are underserved with television



BRENDA MADDOX

choice. And as most households have only a single set, once the child loves the cartoons channel, "you've hooked the whole family".

Both Davey and MacFarland emphasised their determination to be good guests in whatever countries their programmes are received. In some, as Davey put it, "we (Star) don't do news". Turner, of course, does news but shuns

controversy. It contents itself that CNN reaches a mainly hotel audience while the cartoon channel aims for something larger. (Of the three billion people within reach of Star's Asiasat, 63 per cent are under 30 and 700 million are teenagers.) Both Turner's cartoons and Star's entertainment channels broadcast in Mandarin, and other vernacular languages on the now-established principle that local audiences want their TV in their own language, not in English.

Which brings us to the BBC. Star TV, as is well known, dropped the BBC's World Television Service from the northern beam of its Asiasat in April 1994. There is no question that the move was welcomed by China. China has no love for the BBC, particularly after BBC-TV's domestic service broadcast a documentary about Chairman Mao as seen by his doctor.

More recent BBC critical programmes have also upset them.

At the same time, the commercial advantage of using the vacated channel for a subscription-movie service in Chinese was overwhelming. Davey acknowledged this dual motive: "I am not denying that it helped us politically in China that the BBC was not there," he said. "But in Taiwan, the BBC was just not being viewed. And I wanted to kick-start pay-TV. Something had to go. Even if the political problems were not there, the BBC would have had to go."

BBC World remains. Davey pointed out, on the southern beam of Asiasat, which reaches India, the Middle East and even some western regions of China. In most of this vast region a lot of English is spoken, and there is an interest in cricket.

manifest. Star Movies' Chinese-language pay-TV service is well-coming in mainland China and watched by 30 million viewers over the cable systems, which are being built rapidly to bring entertainment into China's blocks of flats and to discourage individual ownership of satellite dishes.

People at Turner International were sceptical of the BBC's dismay at being dropped from Asiasat-north. "Why can't they rent a channel on another satellite?" one salesman in Shanghai asked me. The BBC's answer is money. Unlike its outright commercial rivals, it cannot afford to invest, lose money for a long time and wait.

China, said a Turner man, "is not a today market. It is a tomorrow market." My guess is that tomorrow's Chinese cable systems will take all the foreign channels they can get — except news. But when all these little sons seek, and fail to find, brides, will there be any children to sit in front of the sets?

New roles for New Men

The portrayal of men as sex objects in advertising may create a backlash, says Alan Mitchell

A gorgeous hunk of a construction worker slowly strips off his shirt. A gaggle of gawking secretaries ooh and aah at his utter sexiness, purring a chorus of female wolf whistles. And we are all amused.

If such a commercial had depicted a stripping female being ogled by a group of voyeuristic men, the television stations' switchboards would have been jammed with irate callers. But as it's only a man being treated as a sex object, this advert for Diet Coke has passed by without a ripple. The Independent Television Commission (ITC), the television advertising watchdog, has received just one complaint about it.

Diet Coke is one example of adland's latest bandwagon: male stereotyping. Some adverts explore the caring, sharing New Man theme. But a growing number play the role reversal game. Men are depicted as aggressive, reckless drivers (Swinton Insurance); as incompetents who cannot chop an onion or change a wheel (Cusson's); as Neanderthals who cannot cope with modern technology (BT), or as always being outsmarted by a woman boss (Ken-coffee).

Just harmless fun? Most of us, both male and female, think it is. But how far should the role reversal game go? And what comes after?

Some groups already aren't seeing the funny side. When the ITC researched British attitudes towards nudity in advertising, a surprising number expressed concern that the treatment of men was as sexist as that of women.

And according to a new study by the market researchers Davies Riley-Smith Macay, young men in particular are beginning to resent the way marketers represent their sex. The Page 3-style depiction



Outsmarted: a female company boss has fun at the expense of a male chauvinist in Kenco coffee's advertisements

of perfect-torsoed men makes them feel inadequate, and commercials which make men seem inferior to women at work make their blood boil. "Some of these adverts are potentially very denigratory," agrees the firm's associate director Lucy Banister.

Advertisers say gender role reversal adverts are simply tongue in cheek, and appeal to women who like the "It's pay-back time" message. Women's attitude is that they have had to live with negative imagery since time immemorial, so it's refreshing to see men getting a taste of their own medicine.

But there may be something deeper at work. While feminism has staked out positive roles for women both at home and at work, economic change means that young men are being stripped of old roles and finding little that is positive to replace them.

At school, girls are now doing better than boys. They are catching up fast in the world of work too. Soon women will outnumber men in paid employment. One in four men of working age is now jobless. For men, who are still dependent on paid work as a means of self-identification, this



Sex object: Diet Coke recognises the lure of the hunk

amounts to a "crisis of masculinity", says the Henley Society in its recent report, *Planning for Social Change*.

According to its research, both men and women agree that the qualities post-industrial employers are looking for, such as understanding everyday problems and getting on with colleagues, are more likely to be found among women. In work, "the future is female", it suggests.

Now, Ms Banister says, there is a feeling among some young men that women are getting the best of both worlds. Girls are encouraged to excel at work if they want to, but they always have an alternative of home-building. Male stereotyping in advertising merely confirms the pressure

men feel from other sources. Ms Banister says. Resentment against it "can only increase as existing social trends develop".

Some signs of the times: complaints to the ITC about television adverts being offensive to men are rising fast, albeit from a very low base. The majority of complaints made to the Equal Opportunities Commission on grounds of sex discrimination at work now come from men. And saddest of all, the group with the fastest growing suicide rate is young men between 15 and 24. It is up 71 per cent in the ten years to 1992 and attributable at least partly to changing economic and social roles and pressures, say the Samaritans.

How seriously should marketers take the issue of negative

male stereotyping? Not very, suggests Adam Kirby, a board account director at Lowe Howard Spink, the agency that produced the Diet Coke adverts. It's a temporary phenomenon, he says. Because commercials have to get their message across in 30 or so seconds, they must deal in clichés. But clichés work only if they are fresh, he says. "When they become witless and perpetual they become counterproductive."

According to Dawn Coulter, a senior planner at McCann Erickson, the agency that produced a commercial for Too Good To Be True ice-cream, which showed a woman being waited upon by a harem of sex-slave hunks, "exploitation can't be offensive if it doesn't reflect the real world". And in the real world of work and housework women are still the underdogs, she says.

Already, says the Henley Centre, the world of work is rejecting fixed gender roles. Marketing could soon follow, suggests Ms Coulter. Traditionally, products have been clearly positioned as "male" or "female", with adverts targeting one of the sexes. But the future may be unisex. Already the car has made the journey from ultimate macho symbol to a unisex object. The next step? Watch out for a wave of unisex food and toiletry brands and campaigns.

Another round of musical chairs

John Diamond on the fall of the Independent's Editor



Hargreaves: resigned

Of all the eccentric hops and skips in the game of musical chairs which editorial life in Fleet Street has become, the least surprising was the resignation yesterday of Ian Hargreaves as the Editor of the *Independent*. Just 18 months ago I interviewed Hargreaves as he was leaving a safe deputy's chair at the *Financial Times* to go to Canary Wharf. Wasn't he, I asked, worried about implementing the budget cuts being sought by David Montgomery, chief executive of the Mirror Group which owns 43 per cent of the paper? Not at all, he said, and confidently listed the firm's budgetary assurances he'd been given.

But they turned out not to be quite so firm after all. There were sackings soon after he joined, and another round in June. On Monday night the board called for 40 more and Hargreaves walked. The legendarily tough Charles Wilson, who was, ironically enough, Editor of *The Times* when the *Independent* started, has taken over as temporary editor and will have no problem sacking as many people as he feels he needs to.

The *Independent* is now run by David Montgomery's Mirror Group and the Irish media owner Tony O'Reilly: for some time it has been apparent that Hargreaves had lost the support of the former — who was heard last month telling staff at, of all places, *The Guardian* that Hargreaves was not much longer for this world — and now he seems to have fallen out of favour with O'Reilly too.

But if Hargreaves is the wrong editor for the paper it's hard to see who would be the right one. The paper is losing at least a million pounds a month. Morale is low and, says one staff member, will fall even further if an outsider is drafted in as editor. The most regularly touted inside appointment — Andrew Marr, the paper's political editor — has, apparently, already turned the job down.

Moreover, any Mirror Group money which could be diverted to the staffing and promotion of the paper is going instead to fund Montgomery's long game at the company's cash-leeching Live TV, the cable station which will, he hopes, bring to reality his dream of TV moguldom.

Staff at the *Independent* have their own dream, namely that Tony O'Reilly will stomp up the cash, buy the paper out-

right, and thus fulfil his dream of owning a British newspaper. Dream on: if the paper is losing a million a month sharing facilities with the *Daily Mirror*, it can lose only more if it strikes out alone.

Can the paper last? *The Guardian* yesterday in a rare front page streamer boasted its own success — sales now at 405,000 a day — and noted smugly the *Independent* fall below 300,000. Current informed opinion, led by less triumphalist pundits, is that the paper which was going to save the soul of the British press has some two years left before it runs out of financial believers.

Certainly that time will be

shorter if O'Reilly's rumoured plans for the failing *Daily Express* are to be believed. Last week the word was that Andrew Lloyd Webber was teaming up with O'Reilly to take over the paper, and the events following the resignation of the editor, Sir Nicholas Lloyd, have fuelled those rumours, and there will certainly be other bidders. Although the *Express's* Lord Stevens talks about finding a new editor he's gone for none of the obvious choices, and Lloyd is continuing to edit until the end of the month.

This means there are two national editors' jobs up for grabs — and this given that the installation of two new editors at the Telegraph plc last month was meant to signal the end of the latest flurry of editorial reshuffling in Fleet Street which has left no paper with an editor who's had more than three years in the job. But there may be more changes to come.

"The sophisticated conversation at Associated Newspapers," one *Mail* executive told me last week, "is that Max Hastings was brought across from the *Telegraph* to oversee the plan to turn the *London Evening Standard* into a national paper — a sort of tabloid format *Telegraph*."

It certainly makes a sort of sense. The *Standard* sells as many papers to Londoners as most broadsheets do across the whole country. It has a full foreign and home news staff, a raft of expensive columnists and pundits and could be printed around the country on the *Mail's* presses. It could even, perhaps, take on some of the *Independent's* journalists.



Zafar Abbas, a BBC correspondent in Pakistan, suffered head injuries when he was attacked by an armed gang

Alexandra Frean on the increasing dangers for journalists in war zones

Have flak jacket ... will report

THE MURDER by Croatian troops of the BBC journalist John Schofield in August was a brutal illustration of why television crews covering war zones now routinely wear flak jackets and travel in armoured vehicles. War correspondents frequently become victims of the conflicts they cover and Mr Schofield was one of at least 50 journalists to have died covering the war in former Yugoslavia.

Despite these dangers, there is growing concern that the increasing use of armour and of battlefield training courses by journalists is creating a "bunker mentality" which negatively affects the way they report wars, and can turn certain notoriously dangerous areas into complete "no go zones" for the media.

Martin Bell, the BBC's veteran war correspondent who has himself been wounded by shrapnel in the former Yugoslavia, said that the corporation's recent attempts to minimise the risk for journalists on the front-line by issuing them with safety guidelines and sending them on "hostile

environment" training weeks were not necessarily the best solution. Journalists were often better served by being allowed to use their discretion and experience in determining what precautions to take.

"Wearing a flak jacket separates you from the people with whom you are living as if you have some superhuman status. It is the status we should not claim. It is, in a sense, rather shameful to be wearing a flak jacket while you are interviewing somebody who isn't," he said.

Christiane Amanpour, a senior international correspondent with the American cable news service CNN who has worked in most of the main war zones of the 1990s, agrees that there is a limit to which armour can be useful. "The bunker mentality among journalists ... can sometimes

prevent you going places you might otherwise go," she said.

Speaking at the weekend in Berlin at an international conference which brought together 150 news organisations from around the world, Ms Amanpour added that in some circumstances, wearing protective clothing could actually increase risk. "In Somalia if you are caught wearing a flak jacket you could get your throat cut by someone trying to steal it ... we need to know how to use these things in an intelligent fashion," she said.

Jon Snow, presenter of *Channel 4 News*, said that the bunker mentality was effectively making some areas "off limits". Broadcasters were now so worried about the death toll among journalists in Algeria, he said, that they had virtually decided not to send crews to cover the country's

elections tomorrow. At least 21 journalists were killed there last year — victims of tensions between Muslim extremists and a Government determined to muzzle the press.

Any footage of the election used by British broadcasters is likely to be provided by television news agencies, such as Reuters Television.

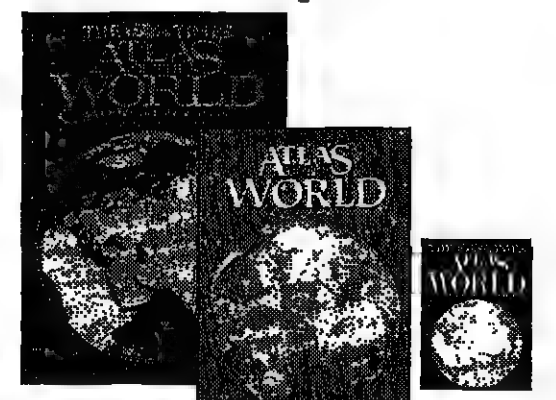
The dangers are compounded by the increasing competition between the three television news agencies — Reuters Television, APTV and WTN. In Bosnia, a shared picture "pool", designed to reduce the risks taken by rival agencies and freelance camera crews, recently broke up because of tension between the three agencies.

A tempting solution might be for governments and news organisations to do more to ensure that those who murder journalists are brought to justice. Even this, however, is fraught with difficulties. Journalists sometimes fear that attempts to track down the murderers might make life still more difficult for those left behind in the field.

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TIMES NEWSPAPERS LIMITED. 1995. Published and printed by Times Newspapers Ltd at 1 Virginia Street, London E1 9XN, telephone 0171-782 5000 and at Knowlsey Park Industrial Estate, Killing Road, Prescot, Merseyside, L34 9HN, telephone 0151-546 2000. Wednesday, November 15, 1995. Registered in England.



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THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 15 1995

Setback for European money union

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN FRANKFURT

PLANS to create a European single currency suffered a blow yesterday from the European Monetary Institute and national bank governors who want to see its introduction delayed until 2002.

It is likely that European Union leaders will have to agree the three-and-a-half year delay when they meet in Madrid next week. This is seen as a victory for the German government and Bundesbank, which had opposed plans for a quicker "big bang" start recommended this year

by the European Commission. Alexandre Lamfalussy, president of the EMI, forerunner of a European central bank, even suggested that the eventual introduction of new European notes and coins could be even further away. He told a press conference that, while the Maastricht treaty was clear that the three-and-a-half year conversion to the single currency must start in 1999, lawyers might find ways of postponing the deadline. Any question of delay, he said, should be left to legal experts.

The crucial decision on which states will join a monetary union will not be taken until early 1998 and Britain, which can opt out, seems likely to join. Spain and Italy are almost certain to be excluded. The official European line is holding fast to a timetable which would freeze the exchange rates of countries qualified to join the monetary union on January 1, 1999. But influential voices in Germany and elsewhere have suggested that this deadline would have to be put off either if too few countries meet the strict economic criteria or if France fails to qualify.

Yesterday the German government's Council of Economic Advisers said that only two states currently meet all requirements and that the 1999 date might have to be delayed. M Lamfalussy would not be drawn on which countries might join a single currency but underlined that without France, such a union would just be a "deutschmark zone".

The report from the EMI bypassed such fundamental questions, concentrating on a technical brief. It said that the

technical problems of changing banking systems and cash machines across an unknown number of countries mean that the new currency must be run in over several years.

"The phasing in of the new banknotes cannot be done overnight," said the report, noting that 12 billion banknotes and 70 billion coins circulate in the EU.

From 1999, the report says: "Private economic agents should be free to use the European currency; on the other hand, they should not be obliged to do so before the deadline set for the completion of the changeover."

The report suggests that the final deadline be July 2002, allowing six months for the single currency to be brought in and national currencies taken out of circulation.

The EU summit in Madrid is expected finally to agree that the new money should be called the "euro", allowing a marketing campaign to start next year.

M Lamfalussy also threw his weight behind a proposal to put currencies that do not join a monetary union into a revamped exchange-rate mechanism. He said that a renewed currency grid would be designed to ensure that EU states outside the single currency could not devalue too far against the inner "core".

M Lamfalussy backed ideas first floated by Theo Waigel, the German Finance Minister, for a "stability pact" between member states using a single currency that would bind governments to keeping down public spending and borrowing. The proposal has also attracted support from France and the Commission.



Alexandre Lamfalussy, EMI president, yesterday said that a single currency without France would be a 'deutschmark zone'

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES		
FT-SE 100	3547.5	(+11.1)
Yield	4.02%	
FT-SE All share	1741.55	(+4.63)
Nikkei	17802.51	(+13.05)
New York		
Dow Jones	4886.26	(+13.38)
S&P Composite	591.71	(-0.59)
US RATE		
Federal Funds	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Long Bond	107 1/8	(107 1/8)
Yield	5.25%	(5.25%)
LONDON MONEY		
3-mth Interbank	6 1/4%	(6 1/4%)
Life long gilt		
future (Dec)	107 1/8	(107 1/8)
STERLING		
New York	1.5805	(1.5530)
London	1.5590	(1.5550)
DM	2.2045	(2.2044)
FF	7.8025	(7.8040)
Sfr	1.7775	(1.7780)
Yen	168.54	(167.30)
£ Index	83.3	(83.3)
DOLLAR		
London	1.4136	(1.4180)
DM	4.8769	(4.8890)
FF	1.1396	(1.1430)
Sfr	101.70	(101.80)
Yen	85.1	(85.2)
Tokyo close Yen	101.75	
NORTH SEA OIL		
Brent 15-day Jan	£16.35	(£16.40)
GOLD		
London close	\$386.86	(\$390.00)
* denotes midday trading price		

Morton attacks funding drive

BY GEORGE SYVELL

SIR Alastair Morton, the chairman of Eurobriant and former chairman of the Chancellor's Private Finance Initiative, last night attacked the attempts made so far by the Government to attract private-sector capital into public projects.

He was strongly critical of the operation of the PFI at the time of his resignation in July. He said that "by July a situation resembling a tube of toothpaste had developed. Pressure on the initiation end had produced a bulging of the tube followed by a spurt from time to time as some, but not enough, of the product came out".

Sir Alastair told a City of London audience that the main failing was the absence of an effective operator of public projects. He said: "The operator is central to a Private Finance Initiative project, not the builder or banker."

"The operator must be the client for the construction or procurement, to be financed from operating cash flow to that operator over the life of the contract. Under-capitalised builders cannot take on this role."

"Major firms have not yet established themselves in this business as they have in France. The privatised utilities could be contenders but have a long way to go."

"The Whitehall, Government agency and local authority delivery problem is that the PFI represents a dramatic cultural change. They were client for and owner of the public service and infrastructure but must now be initiator and regulator."

Scotland wins £260m factory contract

Jobs boost for former steel town

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH
SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

THE community that was hit hard by the closure of the Ravenscraig steelworks has won Britain's largest inward investment in a deal which will create 3,300 jobs in the electronics industry.

The jobs boost for Lanarkshire was announced by Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, who said Chunghwa Picture Tube, a subsidiary of Tannung, the Taiwan company, will invest £260 million in a European manufacturing facility a few miles away from the site of the Ravenscraig steelworks, which closed in 1992 with the loss of thousands of jobs.

The site at Mossend, Lanarkshire, won the investment in the face of competition from France and Ireland and the new plant will create more jobs than any other

inward UK investment, overshadowing recent investments by Samsung and by Siemens in the North East.

A total of 6,000 jobs could eventually be created in Lanarkshire as a result of this deal as workers in support industries and Chunghwa's suppliers set up bases. The investment was brokered by Locate in Scotland and the Government is believed to have offered grants and financial incentives totalling £90 million to £90 million to secure the investment.

Yesterday Mr Forsyth said the sums involved were large but said the exact amount of money involved was commercially sensitive and would remain confidential.

John Reid, the Labour MP for Motherwell North, said: "This announcement was just what we needed in Lanarkshire in the run-up to Christmas. We have gone

through the trauma of steel closures and there is still some way to go in the regeneration of Lanarkshire. But I believe that we can now start looking forward rather than back. Today really does mark a new beginning."

C.Y. Lin, president of Chunghwa, said his company employed 12,000 people worldwide and had sales of \$1 billion.

The 90-acre site has already been cleared and work on the new building will begin in the spring. The factory will produce cathode-ray tubes for computer monitors and televisions and the first phase of the project is expected to come on stream in July 1997 by which time 1,200 people are expected to be employed.

Full production of about 10 million tubes a year will take four years. The initial workers will be trained in Taiwan and Malaysia.

Bubbling

Strong growth in the developing industrial countries of Asia and South America fortified the gases business of BOC. Its pre-tax profit for the year ending September 30 climbed to £402.2 million (£253.1 million). **Report 27, Times 28**

Windswept

Caribbean hurricanes, subsidence claims and increasing competition in the insurance market has led General Accident to report lower than expected pre-tax profit for the first nine months to September 30. GA's worldwide underwriting loss rose from £3 million last year to £51.6 million. **Times 28, report 31**

Minister in legal fight with Lloyd's

BY SARAH BAGNALL

MORE than 1,000 Lloyd's names, including Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, yesterday began a High Court action in a bid to recover insurance losses nearing £430 million.

Other Tory MPs involved in the legal case brought by the Rose Thomson Young Action Group are Sir Richard Body and David Tredinnick. Mr Lang's presence as a litigant is of particular significance as the Department of Trade and Industry is in charge of regulating Lloyd's. In order to avoid any potential conflict of interest Mr Lang, who is thought to have lost £800,000, delegated the responsibility earlier this year to his junior

minister, Anthony Nelson. The losses incurred by the 1,092 names in the Rose Thomson Young syndicate resulted from a string of catastrophes, starting with the explosion on the Piper Alpha oil platform in 1988 and followed by Hurricane Hugo and the Exxon Valdez oil spill. The losses were concentrated on a relatively small percentage of the Lloyd's membership.

The RTY case follows successful court actions bought by thousands of loss-making names in Gooda Walker and Feltrim syndicates and comes as Lloyd's is trying to negotiate a £2.8 billion settlement with all its names.

Merrill woos top aides from rival

BY PATRICIA TEHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

MERRILL LYNCH, the US investment banking giant, has dealt a blow to Deutsche Morgan Grenfell by hiring its two most senior corporate financiers.

Guy Dawson, head of corporate finance at Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, and Justin Dowley, head of UK corporate finance, handed in their notices yesterday.

They will join Merrill as managing directors of corporate finance in the new year. Merrill said that the two highly paid bankers were not moving for more money, adding that they had been attracted by the company's strong position in global equity markets. Mr Dawson has been

involved in all Deutsche Morgan Grenfell's big deals lately, including ScottishPower's acquisition of Manweb and Scottish & Newcastle's acquisition of Courage.

Mr Dowley advised Queens Moat Houses on its reconstruction. Seaboard on its sale to Central and South West, and Compass on the purchase of Eures.

Deutsche has replaced Mr Dawson with a new management committee of corporate finance, chaired by Peter Espenhahn, his former deputy. It has also promoted Rory Macnamara, one of its senior UK corporate finance directors, to head of UK corporate finance.

Singapore Air gives Rolls its record order

BY ROSS TIERMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

ROLLS-ROYCE has won its largest order, a £1.2 billion contract to supply engines for 28 Boeing 777 twin jets ordered yesterday by Singapore Airlines.

In securing the order for the Trent 800, the most powerful engine in the world, Rolls overturned the airline's traditional loyalty to Pratt & Whitney of America, which has hitherto won the lion's share of orders to power the new plane.

An endorsement from Singapore Airlines will help Rolls in the tough battle with Pratt and General Electric to recoup money invested in developing ranges of engines to equip the 777 and its chief rival, the European Airbus A330/A340. Each manufacturer has spent

more than \$1 billion on development of the planes. Singapore Airlines has placed firm orders for 28 Boeing 777s and taken options on 33 more. It plans to use Rolls engines on all of them. In addition, the airline's leasing subsidiary has ordered six aircraft and taken options on ten more. It has yet to choose the engines. All of the aircraft are the 300-seat, medium-range version of the new Boeing.

The US\$12.7 billion aircraft order is a blow to Airbus Industrie, the European planemaker, in which British Aerospace is a 20 per cent partner. The firm orders for engines and spares will be worth some £600 million to

Rolls, which already enjoys a £6.5 billion order book. Excluding options, Rolls now has firm orders to equip 60 Boeing 777s, compared with 81 for Pratt & Whitney and 61 for General Electric.

Analysts will worry that the fierce competition for sales is forcing manufacturers to sell engines cheaply now, in the hope of making a profit later from spare parts, however.

The order coincided with an agreement for EDS to supply all computing needs of Rolls-Royce Aerospace Group under a ten-year partnership in which efficiency savings will be shared.

Pennington, page 27
Stock Market, page 28



Computer-aided design has helped to produce the Trent 800

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Report 27, Times 28

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TRADE INDENTITY

THE CONFEDERATION OF BRITISH INDUSTRY'S ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN BIRMINGHAM

Government taken to task over transport policy

By Ross Tjeman, Industrial Correspondent

THE current levels of infrastructure spending in Britain are below those of the rest of Europe, Robert Napier, the chairman of the CBI's transport committee, said yesterday.

Mr Napier, chief executive of Redland, the building products group, said that the Government had "taken no lead whatsoever" in transport policy and left industry to compete with overseas rivals while hampered by an inadequate infrastructure.

He told the conference that the West Coast Main Line, the spine of the British railway network, was a "national disgrace". The Government, he said, must reverse the cuts in the road programme for motorway widening, maintenance, and bypasses.

His criticisms, which earned hearty approval from delegates, were particularly targeted at the Government's decision to cut road spending without waiting for the outcome of the "great transport debate" launched by Brian Mawhinney when he was Transport Secretary.

Mr Napier also focused his fury on the Government's Private Finance Initiative (PFI), which has caused a hiatus in the modernisation of roads, railways and other facilities while the willingness of the private sector to fund them is explored.

The PFI had failed to deliver so far, Mr Napier said. "The PFI certainly won't compensate for the reduction in central government funding."

Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, later defended the Government's

record. "The Government's transport policy has been one of major road expansion," he said. "We have an integrated transport policy that operates effectively, involving road, rail, air and ports. If you look at all four components, you will find that massive advances have been made in recent years."

But the long-standing concern of business at the shortcomings in Britain's transport system will soon return to the agenda. Next month, the CBI will publish its proposals for a programme of construction to modernise Britain's transport links.

Giving delegates a foretaste of the conclusions yesterday, Mr Napier said that Britain needed to spend an additional £2 billion a year to bring roads, railways, ports and other links up to the standard of our main European rivals. Extra spending was unavoidable, he said.

"If the Government's objective is to raise the standard of living of the nation, this requires growth which leads to more transport."

But Mr Napier said that more roads were not the whole solution. Policies must take account of the environment and focus on the appropriate solutions for particular problems. Investment must also be made in "urban rail programmes, and locally tailored solutions to meeting congestion problems."

Mr Napier said that business, had a role to play. Companies should review the way they used transport links and seek to make their operations more efficient.

He said that better route planning, for example, could result in fewer lorry journeys, reducing congestion, fuel consumption, pollution and costs.



Ian Lang emphasised the need for flexible labour markets

Lang says job worries only a 'state of mind'

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

JOB INSECURITY is only a "state of mind", Ian Lang, president of the board of trade, said yesterday. Speaking ahead of today's government announcement of October's unemployment figures, which will show the seasonally-adjusted number of people out of work and claiming benefit still greater than 2.2 million, Mr Lang took employment specialists by surprise by insisting there was no such thing as job insecurity.

Poll evidence suggests that fears about job security are widespread and a principal reason behind the lack of the so-called "feel-good factor", and, in particular, are a key reason behind stagnation in the housing market.

Mr Lang, stressing the economic importance of flexible labour markets, denied that job insecurity was real. He told business journalists before speaking to the CBI conference: "What I am saying is that job insecurity is a state of mind. The reality is, by

creating a flexible labour market we have actually been creating more jobs."

More people were now in work in Britain than in any comparable European country, he said. Half a million jobs had been created since the end of the recession — 300,000 in the last year alone.

He told the conference: "A flexible labour market is the cornerstone to economic success. It is vital if industry is to be able to respond quickly and effectively to the changing competitive challenge."

Speaking shortly before Mr Lang, John Hougham, chairman of Acas, the independent conciliation service, applauded the relative absence of industrial action. But, looking below the surface of the low strike figures showed "one reason for the fall in direct action has been the economic reality and fear of job losses rather than an apparent improvement in communications and relationships at work."

'Tourism jobs would go under Labour'

By OUR INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

VIRGINIA BOTTOMLEY yesterday launched an all-out attack on the European social chapter and Labour's proposed minimum wage, claiming they would cost up to 1.8 million jobs.

Closing the CBI's first debate on the tourism industry, the National Heritage Secretary implicitly challenged the employers' organisation to take a firmer stand against the two key planks of Labour employment policy.

Tourism had created 90,000 jobs in the past decade, a 21 per cent increase, Mrs Bottomley said. "When the tourism industry is seeking to recapture market share, the social chapter, as sure as night follows day, would reduce that share and give our jobs away."

A minimum wage would be a "cruel deception of the young, the unskilled and the unemployed", who found work and learnt skills in Britain's hotels and holiday centres, she said. It would cost industry up to £2 billion a year.

Earlier, Sir John Egan, the chief executive of BAA, and chairman of the CBI's Tourism Action Group, blamed a lack of vision for the failure of tourism to create many more jobs in Britain.

If tourism in Britain had matched the 8 per cent growth rate achieved world-wide, he said, it would have created 150,000 more jobs than it had since 1980 and brought in £8 billion more in revenues.

But because Britain had "failed collectively to take tourism seriously enough", the industry had grown by only 6 per cent a year. Even so, it accounts for 5 per cent of United Kingdom GDP, generates £36 billion a year of revenue and provides 1.5 million jobs, 7 per cent of the nation's total.

Business must beware Blair's hidden agenda

By Stanley Kalms



Kalms: 'Blair's smokescreen'

TONY BLAIR'S speech to the CBI gave him another opportunity to discuss Labour's business policies. It was full of wonderful words, but I do find myself astonished that it was received with so little incredulity from business leaders, who seemed lulled into a dangerous complacency.

Having considered carefully his every word, I can now put down my marker. I simply do not believe he says what he means, and the credibility gap grows.

The arguments are inconsistent with a socialist party — albeit renamed. The figures do not add up without massive increases in taxation.

His compatriots, however camouflaged, are the same people who have spent their lives denigrating profits and business success.

The speech was used as another opportunity to reaffirm Labour's commitment to a minimum wage and the Social Chapter. His speech finished with applause. But how can British industrialists applaud this?

The CBI has estimated that the minimum wage will cost British industry £4.5 billion and thousands of jobs. The Social Chapter would open the door to the imposition of a wide range of employment regulations that would again undermine Britain's ability to compete in world markets and destroy thousands of

jobs. Mr Blair tried to create a smokescreen by saying that each piece of legislation under the Social Chapter "will be judged on its merits". But CBI members must know that the Social Chapter would allow measures we do not want to be imposed on Britain, regardless of the views of the British Government.

Why did the CBI allow him to get away with this? Does it no longer believe in its policy documents, or see the damage Labour's policies would bring? Isn't it time it told Labour to drop its support for the minimum wage and the Social Chapter?

Who was looking through this smokescreen and asking the hard questions? How can Labour promise

to reverse every tough decision the Government takes to promote efficiency in public services and contain public spending — and then ask us to believe they won't put up taxes, blow up the PSBR, and unleash new inflationary pressures? A need of business is to occasionally sup with the devil. But we should take great care with this one — with its low level of resistance to European regulation, his broad acceptance of the Social Chapter, and his need for high taxation. Business must fight its corner because integration is no antidote to the reality of Labour's hidden agenda.

The author is chairman of Dibros

Cobham buys Westwind

COBHAM is expanding outside its core aerospace and defence markets through the acquisition of Westwind Air Bearings, which makes air bearing spindles used in machines and machine tools (Philip Pangalos writes).

The aerospace engineering and specialist air services group, formerly FR Group, will fund £57.8 million of the

purchase price through the issue of 15.4 million new shares.

Cobham is making a placing and open offer on a one-for-five basis, at 375p a share. The balance will be paid in loan notes and cash, with Cobham's gearing expected to rise to about 30 per cent.

Cobham shares surged 31p, to 432p, on the news.

Part-timers battle for past pension rights

By Sara McConnell

SIXTY THOUSAND part-time workers today start a battle to win backdated pension rights potentially worth £95 million. If they succeed, hundreds of thousands more part-timers could apply to join their employer's pension scheme. This could cost employers up to £10 billion.

An industrial tribunal in Birmingham is to hear ten test cases from part-timers around the country who have been denied membership of occupational pension schemes. The cases have been chosen from 60,000 claims lodged after a European Court of Justice ruling in September last year that employers excluding part-timers — the majority of whom are women — from pension schemes could be guilty of indirect sex discrimination. Britain's six million part-time workers should have the right to join an employer's pension scheme and receive backdated benefits



Monks co-ordinating claims

if they can prove indirect sex discrimination, the court said. The test cases include teachers and lecturers, bank workers and a health service employee. They are being co-ordinated by the TUC and will test legal points.

Most importantly, the tribunal will rule on how far back part-timers can take their claims. The European Court

set no limit on backdating. Technically, benefits could be backdated to April 1976, the date of an earlier court judgment. But the Government announced earlier this year that it would be using the Equal Pay Act 1970 to limit retrospective claims to two years.

The TUC is challenging this, saying there are grounds for allowing claims back to 1976. It is also seeking to establish what time limits will be allowed for claims. Under the Sex Discrimination Act 1975, claims can be lodged up to six months after the discrimination occurred or after the law changed. By this yardstick, part-timers had until the end of March this year to put in a claim to the industrial tribunal.

John Monks, TUC General Secretary, said: "The Government and employers must wake up to the fact that part-time workers deserve to be treated the same as full-timers."

World trade set for 8% growth

WORLD trade is set to grow 8 per cent, or nearly triple the pace of output this year, providing more evidence that global economic integration continues apace, according to the World Trade Organisation (Colin Narbrough writes).

In its first annual report since it took over in January from the General Agreement

on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) as the free trade watchdog, the WTO noted, however, that trade growth this year represented a slowdown from last year's 9.5 per cent and that further deceleration is forecast next year.

Even so, the World Trade Organisation, which is headed by Renato Ruggiero, regards the latest data as

confirmation of the pattern evident since 1990 in which trade growth exceeds output growth by a much wider margin than in previous decades.

International Trade Trends and Statistics World Trade Organisation Price: 40 Swiss francs (£22.50)

Building societies bonanza tops £11bn

By Anne Ashworth

NEARLY a third of the population will share more than £11 billion in the building society merger and conversion bonanza involving National and Provincial and the Halifax, according to a survey.

This is the sum likely to be distributed over a two-year period to the 12.6 million qualifying savers and borrowers. The N&P is being taken over by Abbey National; the Halifax, now merged with the Leeds, is to seek a stock-market flotation in 1997.

The survey by Nikko Europe, the securities house, says lack of confidence over the economy means that about two thirds (£7 billion), of the windfall will be saved rather than spent. This implies that about £4 billion will be injected into the economy, equivalent to the expected tax cuts in this month's Budget.

About half of the spending will be with holiday companies, clothing and footwear retailers and home improvements outlets, the survey says.

TOURIST RATES		
Bank	Bank	
Buy	Sell	
Australia \$	2.21	2.03
Austria Sch	16.52	16.00
Belgium Fr	48.36	44.06
Canada \$	2.207	2.047
Cyprus Cyp	0.744	0.689
Denmark Kr	5.17	4.87
Finland Mk	7.19	6.54
France Fr	8.03	7.58
Germany DM	2.37	2.18
Greece Dr	381.19	388.19
Hong Kong \$	12.88	11.88
Ireland Pt	1.05	0.98
Italy Lira	8,000.00	4,440.00
Japan Yen	200.00	240.00
Latvia Lit	172.27	165.57
Malta	0.588	0.534
Netherlands Gld	2.265	2.055
New Zealand \$	2.58	2.31
Norway Kr	10.38	9.82
Portugal Esc	248.50	252.00
Spain Ptas	167.00	164.00
Sweden Kr	11.00	10.00
Switzerland Fr	1.91	1.75
Turkey Lira	1.852	7882.00
USA \$	1.852	1.58

Rates for small denomination banknotes

Notes from Barclays Bank PLC.

NEWBURY Building Society	
Head Office: 17 Bartholomew Street, Newbury RG14 5LY. Telephone: 01635 43676	
Revised Interest Rates	
The new rates of interest effective from 10 November 1995 on the Newbury investment accounts are set out below:	
Current Accounts	Old Rate
Treasury Plus	4.25
10,000 - 24,999	4.13
25,000 - 49,999	4.00
50,000 and OVER	3.88
Instant Premium	4.10
15,000 - 24,999	3.98
25,000 - 49,999	3.86
50,000 and OVER	3.74
Monthly Monthly Income	4.42
22,500-49,999	4.20
50,000 and OVER	4.08
TESA 95	6.75
Young Saver	3.75
21 - 2499	3.63
2500 - 24,999	3.51
25,000 - 49,999	3.39
50,000 - 24,999	3.27
25,000 and OVER	3.15
Paid up shares	1.40
Closed Accounts	Old Rate
Fixed Rate	4.10
Fixed Rate Interest	4.00
Fixed Rate	3.90
Fixed Rate	3.80
Fixed Rate	3.70
Fixed Rate	3.60
Fixed Rate	3.50
Fixed Rate	3.40
Fixed Rate	3.30
Fixed Rate	3.20
Fixed Rate	3.10
Fixed Rate	3.00
Fixed Rate	2.90
Fixed Rate	2.80
Fixed Rate	2.70
Fixed Rate	2.60
Fixed Rate	2.50
Fixed Rate	2.40
Fixed Rate	2.30
Fixed Rate	2.20
Fixed Rate	2.10
Fixed Rate	2.00
Fixed Rate	1.90
Fixed Rate	1.80
Fixed Rate	1.70
Fixed Rate	1.60
Fixed Rate	1.50
Fixed Rate	1.40
Fixed Rate	1.30
Fixed Rate	1.20
Fixed Rate	1.10
Fixed Rate	1.00
Fixed Rate	0.90
Fixed Rate	0.80
Fixed Rate	0.70
Fixed Rate	0.60
Fixed Rate	0.50
Fixed Rate	0.40
Fixed Rate	0.30
Fixed Rate	0.20
Fixed Rate	0.10
Fixed Rate	0.00

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□ Sober bankers hold EMU reins □ Reasons behind a marriage of markets □ British engine maker's victory roll

Euro note of caution

□ IS EUROPE'S planned single currency suffering a death by a thousand cuts? The plan to lock the exchange rates of several EU states in 1999 and to issue notes and coins called "euros" three and a half years later does, strictly speaking, leave the Maastricht Treaty calendar intact — but only just.

The optimistic architects of monetary union had allowed for slippage back to 1999 and always accepted that the undertaking of converting the cash and banking systems of a large chunk of northern Europe would take time.

But yesterday's report from the European Monetary Institute (EMI) disappointed the Euro-enthusiasts. Those they once feted as visionaries, such as Jacques Delors, have departed and been replaced by the careful technicians such as Baron Alexandre Lamfalussy, the twinkling-eyed boss of the institute.

The baron is a man of deft charm but a cautious central banker to his very core. With Hans Tietmeyer of the Bundesbank cruising the continent on a mission to destroy signs of financial laxity and sloppy thinking, prudence and precision are the virtues of the hour. Without a clear idea of

which happy few states will actually make up the single currency, Lamfalussy has rather a lot to be cautious about.

Yesterday, the EMI president did not close the door to the idea, radical in Euro-enthusiast circles, that even that 1999 date for locking exchange rates might have to be postponed. When he described monetary union as a "unique exercise in economic history... in uncharted waters", he did not sound like a man much fired up by the thought.

Baron Lamfalussy instead sounded wary about the depth of those waters and the time it might take before your average Euro punter is actually handling folding euro notes. At the very best, that date is just under seven years away.

To rub salt in recent wounds, Germany's five Wise Men yesterday sang what is becoming a familiar refrain. If a critical mass of states jump into monetary union on schedule in 1999, then the rules will have to be bent and huge risks run.

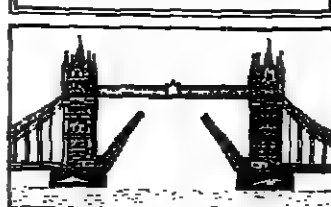
But if everybody sticks to the rules, only a handful of states may qualify — which will rob the single currency of its political pulling power. Never forget that monetary union is a political idea above all. The arguments in favour look feeble by the day, and the economic ones among them are the weakest of all.

Yesterday did throw up one crumb of comfort for Euro-sceptics. In the planned design of the new note, a small square has been set aside for a display by each country of a national symbol. There is some corner of a foreign euro that will be forever England....

LIFFE's what you make it

□ WHICH abstruse commodity freely traded in London has fallen in value by more than 40 per cent over the past year? The answer is not potato futures, Chilean chardonnay or Albanian bund options, but "A" shares in

PENNINGTON



LIFFE, which provide access to all the financial instruments traded on that market.

The shares are freely traded and their decline in value to £140,000 bid at present is one sign why the merger between LIFFE and the London Commodity Exchange looks a defensive one.

The link is first and foremost defensive because it shuts out the foreigners, in the shape of the New York's Coffee, Sugar and Cocoa Exchange, which has stalked the LCE for three years. But the marriage, to become a *ménage-à-trois* if it is joined by the International Petroleum Ex-

change in due course, offers cost savings for two markets that have not been going through the best of times this year, and where one or two big players are questioning the need for a presence in London.

LIFFE has been chuntering for a year or more about the need to relocate from its Cannon Bridge trading floor to more spacious premises, even if the actual volumes going through the market may not necessarily warrant such a move. FTSE futures contracts, for example, were averaging about 60,000 a week this time last year, but they are down to 47,000 now. Total volumes across the market have fallen by 10 per cent over the same period.

Behind these falls are, inevitably, the Barings effect and a bond market considerably less exciting than it was last year. LIFFE is close to taking on another 20,000 sq ft of space, into which some LCE operations could be moved. But the move to the dreamt-of 100,000 sq ft, and a

trading floor that can compete in size with the likes of Chicago, is going to have to wait until business picks up.

Rolls powers ahead of pack

□ THE timing of Rolls-Royce's £1.2 billion Singapore Airlines order is piquant, coming in the same week that arch-rival General Electric delivered its first engines to British Airways two months late and was fined £1 million or so for its tardiness.

But the order is far more important than that, confirming the British producer at the forefront of aero-engine production and well able to beat strong American competition.

BA and Rolls fell out famously in 1991, when, in return for taking the airline's South Wales engine reconditioning plant, General Electric was allowed to supply the GE90 to BA's Boeing jets for the first time, breaking into what had been Rolls' traditional territory.

The GE90, Rolls' own Trent 800 and Pratt & Whitney's PW4000 are the three titans slugging it out on the world big engine market, itself worth up to half all orders for aero engines, and there is little to choose between them on endurance, reliability or spares availability.

Rolls, which had been trailing badly, now has 30 per cent of that market, on a par with GE and not far behind Pratt & Whitney. One might question the margins that Rolls-Royce has accepted to land such a plum contract. But the choice by the world's most profitable airline must augur well for forthcoming business from South Africa or China.

Lang and short of it

□ AFTER the Deputy Prime Minister took a chunk of Ian Lang's portfolio away when he absconded to the Cabinet Office in July, his successor as President of the Board of Trade was kind enough yesterday to do one job Mr Heseltine ought to have done. Tony Blair's honeyed words to the CBI demanded a proper reply, which came courtesy of Mr Lang's robust performance rather than Mr Heseltine's worthy ramblings about competitiveness.

Record profit for Fenner

Fenner, the industrial products group, announced record profits for the year to June 30 of £13.1 million, up 60 per cent. But it said demand could flatten next year.

Fenner successfully completed a one-for-three rights issue at 120p per share in September. The share price dropped 7p to 148p. The dividend tripled to 4.5p, to be paid on January 15.

First final

Asset Management Investment kicked off its maiden year-end period with a final dividend of 0.593p. Pre-tax profits for the company, which floated on December 1, were £63,251 for the ten months to September 30.

Asia and South America help boost BOC profits

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

STRONG growth in the developing industrial countries of Asia and South America fortified the gas business of BOC, which supplies gas to steel producers and other manufacturers.

BOC, which has invested substantially in the US and South America in an effort to reduce its vulnerability to slower growth regions such as the UK and Europe, increased its operating profit in gases 13 per cent to £374.2 million.

The company, which began restructuring its operations two years ago, has consolidated its position in the US with long-term contracts and take-or-pay deals with customers. Another of BOC's successes

with its industrial gases has been to win a high number of orders from new semiconductor plants, which are enjoying strong growth on the back of the telecommunications boom. BOC produces a special mixture of high purity gases to operate in such plants.

In BOC's other division of healthcare, operating profit rose 8 per cent to £59.8 million on sales that fell by the same percentage after the company's disposal of Medical Engineering Systems at the end of the previous year.

The group's pre-tax profit for the year ending September 30 climbed to £402.2 million from £253.1 million, although dismissing last year's excep-

tional charge, the pre-tax line showed a less dramatic rise of 13 per cent. The dividend, which is always announced for the year ahead, was raised for 1996 to 27p from 23.2p.

The company was upbeat about its prospects. Pat Dyer, chief executive, said the group was "entering the new financial year in better shape than ever before, with sound business and regional portfolios, competitive products and technologies, and plenty of opportunities for profitable growth".

The semiconductor boom has also buoyed the group's vacuum technology and distribution services division, which saw operating profit rise 38 per cent to £70.5 million

on sales that had increased 36 per cent to £592.5 million.

The group said that while profits from distribution were similar to the previous year, the vacuum technology business had won a high share of orders for semiconductor pumping applications. The company forecast continued strong demand from the semiconductor industry in the medium term and said that it had widened its customer base as the industry developed globally.

Its production of dry pumps, which are used in the electronics and chemicals industries, was more than doubled to meet the increased demand.

Sedgwick cautious

SEDGWICK GROUP, the London-listed insurance broker, said it remained cautious about conditions in the industry as it unveiled a £2.2 million drop in nine-month pre-tax profits to £76.5 million (Marianne Corry writes).

Despite a fall in rates worldwide, brokerage and fees in European and US retail businesses grew — in Europe by 7 per cent and in the US by 1 per cent. Overall, revenue rose 1 per cent to £692 million for the three quarters to September 30. Earnings per share were 10.2p (9.1p).

The group said yesterday it expected to maintain the final dividend at the 1994 level but would pay it as a foreign income dividend. The dividend will be 4.375p (3.5p).

Arjo Wiggins price hit by warning

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

RESTRUCTURING costs of £100 million and a warning that destocking was exceeding expectations yesterday knocked 11½p from the share price of Arjo Wiggins Appleton, the paper group. The shares closed at 194½p.

The company, which had indicated in its interim results that second-half performance would be disappointing, said that the announcement of a shake-up in its European operations was now being brought forward and was expected to cost more than £100 million over the next few years.

The figure would be eaten up in provisions and write-offs as Arjo reviews the capacity and efficiency of its European operations. It said that capacity utilisation in its European

plants had deteriorated significantly.

The company said that destocking by its customers, many of which had bought heavily as the paper cycle had started to peak, was proving more prolonged than it had anticipated.

It said: "The severity of the current phase of destocking is causing considerable uncertainty and it is too early to say when progress will resume."

Arjo said that the pre-tax profits for this year could be materially lower than those of 1994, before taking into account the substantial provisions that it outlined yesterday. However, it described the market growth of last year, when paper prices were hitting their peak, as unsustainable.



Safety seen with fresh eyes.

In designing the new Mercedes E-class, the task force was now to make a safe car safer. Here are some of the things we have done. Using a completely different crash testing procedure, we have now designed a new front end

in a collision, it not only gives more protection to the driver of the Mercedes, less impact energy would be imparted to the other driver too. In fact, recent crash tests carried out by Auto Motor und Sport magazine resulted in the least

amount of damage to a passenger safety cell ever recorded. Just as impressive was the level of injury measured by the crash test dummies. This was also significantly lower than any previous figure.

The new E-class also has the first safety belt system developed to work specifically with an airbag. First, it will restrain you, then, as the airbag inflates, the belt will slacken slightly allowing you to go forward. The result will be to reduce considerably the risk of any injury to your chest. We have padded more of the

interior, in particular, the dashboard, the steering wheel rim, the roof and the door trim. Talking of doors, we've also developed better side protection. Both front seat passengers now have the option of side airbags which need just seven milliseconds to activate. Of course, the resultfulness of all our new safety features is something

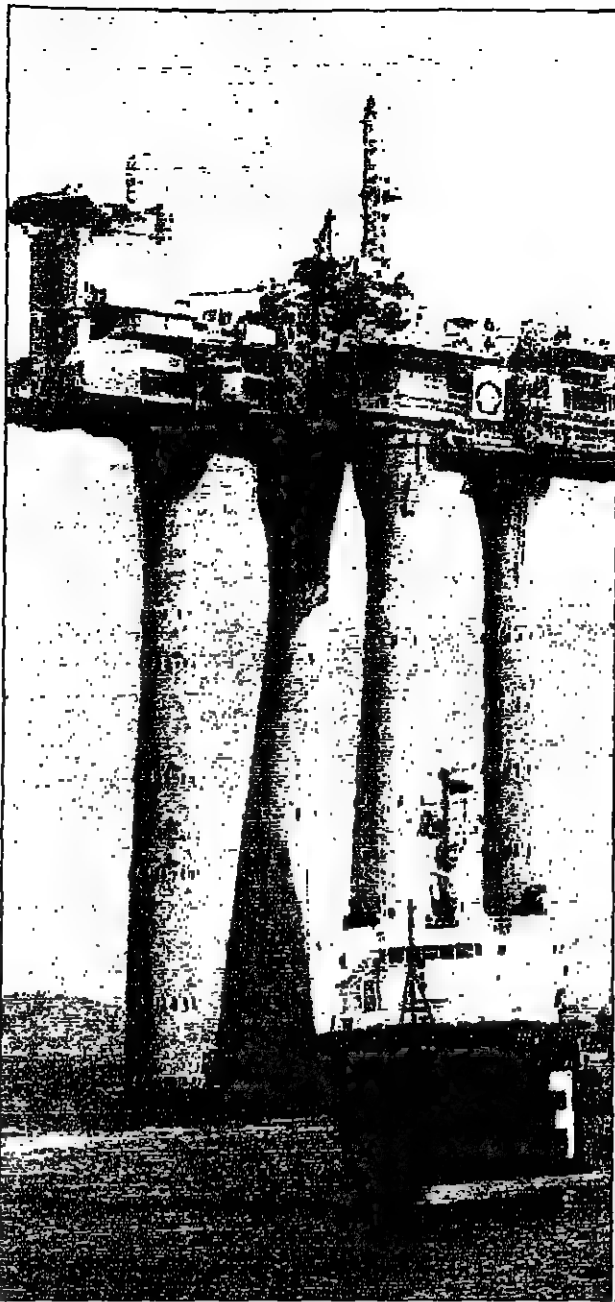
we hope you'll never actually see. The new Mercedes E-class is, on the other hand, something we hope you do see at the earliest opportunity. For more information, call us on 0181 518 9088.



The new Mercedes E-class. Engineering seen with fresh eyes.

Carl Mortished examines the difficulty of Shell's situation in Nigeria

Shell clams up to ride out the storm



The 'Troll' rig shows Shell's spending on oil and gas searches

Eight oil company executives will meet in Lagos today to decide the future of a project to export natural gas from the Niger Delta to Europe. Representatives from Shell, Elf of France, and Agip of Italy will meet their counterparts from the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC).

They will seal the fate of Nigerian Liquefied Natural Gas, a \$4 billion joint venture that has become a target for opponents of the military regime of General Sani Abacha. They will do so knowing that in London, Washington and across Europe, government ministers are debating the imposition of sanctions against Nigeria to punish the regime for the execution of Ken Saro-Wiwa and other political opponents.

The sums of money involved in the project are huge and the commercial and technical risks considerable. Complex international projects of this nature involve long-term gambles on the supply and demand for energy worldwide. For Shell, however, the operator of Nigerian LNG and a 24 per cent shareholder, such problems are the stuff of its daily routine. If the project is scuppered today, it will not be due to arguments about engineering or the future price of gas. It will be abandoned for political reasons.

Political in this instance means public opinion. Shell, like most multinational oil companies, is used to working with political risk which in their lexicon means the threat of nationalisation. Oil companies, by necessity, operate in the developing world where business and politics are inextricably mixed and the memory of the seizure of BP's assets

by a former Nigerian regime lives on in the oil industry. More recently, Shell was confronted by a different and even less predictable risk than the quixotic behaviour of dictators. It was caught napping by the outrage in Germany over the planned dumping at sea of the Brent Spar and responded poorly to the public relations campaign orchestrated by Greenpeace. In the end, Shell proved its point and forced Greenpeace into a partial but humiliating retraction, but only after being forced into an embarrassing U-turn of its



There is a standard oil industry joke that there is a right way, a wrong way and a Shell way of doing everything

own. Shell will do its utmost to avoid a U-turn today. The company prides itself in its long-term view and Shell is used to hunkering down, mollusc-like, to ride out a political storm. Shell has been in Nigeria for 60 years and since independence in 1960 has outlived 14 separate governments, most of them unelected. The company might wish to delay its decision for a few months in the expectation that world opinion will quickly focus on a new human rights outrage elsewhere but this time it cannot afford to do so.

Unlike the Brent Spar incident, there are financial and commercial reasons that preclude dilatory tactics. All of the preparatory work has been completed and \$500 million spent on technical appraisals and the purchase of four specially adapted ships to carry the gas to Southern Europe. The project is also committed

to its contractors, a consortium including Technip, Snamprogetti, Kellogg and JGC of Japan. According to Alan Detheridge, a Shell director responsible for Nigeria, the turnkey contract for the LNG plant to be built on Bonny Island must be kickstarted by December or it expires. "We have a very good price, it is very competitive."

To renegotiate it would involve a new and lengthy tender process which could result in a price that could well harm the economics of the project beyond repair. Meanwhile,

project actually starts to generate income is after 2007."

If history is any guide, several Nigerian governments will have come and gone before there is any money from the LNG. There is a more important reason for opponents of the regime to support the project. NNPC, the state oil company that owns 48 per cent of the venture, has invested \$1 billion of its own oil revenues in the project already. That money, along with funds advanced by Shell, Agip and Elf is being held in escrow, pending the final investment decision.

billions than a construction project with a pay-back date well into the next century.

Shell needs its investment in Nigeria and would suffer from an oil boycott, were one to be imposed. Last year, Shell pumped 256,000 barrels per day, representing about 12 per cent of its worldwide production. Shell is the biggest foreign player in the Nigerian oil industry and the country is the third largest source of oil for the Anglo-Dutch group, after the United States and Britain.

So far, it has resisted the temptation to go on a propaganda offensive over the accusations that it has contributed to environmental devastation in Ogoniland, the homeland of Ken Saro-Wiwa. The company rejects the charge of collusion with the military and recites a litany of statistics about money spent on environmental projects. Lately, it has begun to be more aggressive, claiming that a majority of the recent oil spills in Ogoniland were caused by sabotage: local people damaging flowpipes with hacksaws in pursuit of compensation.

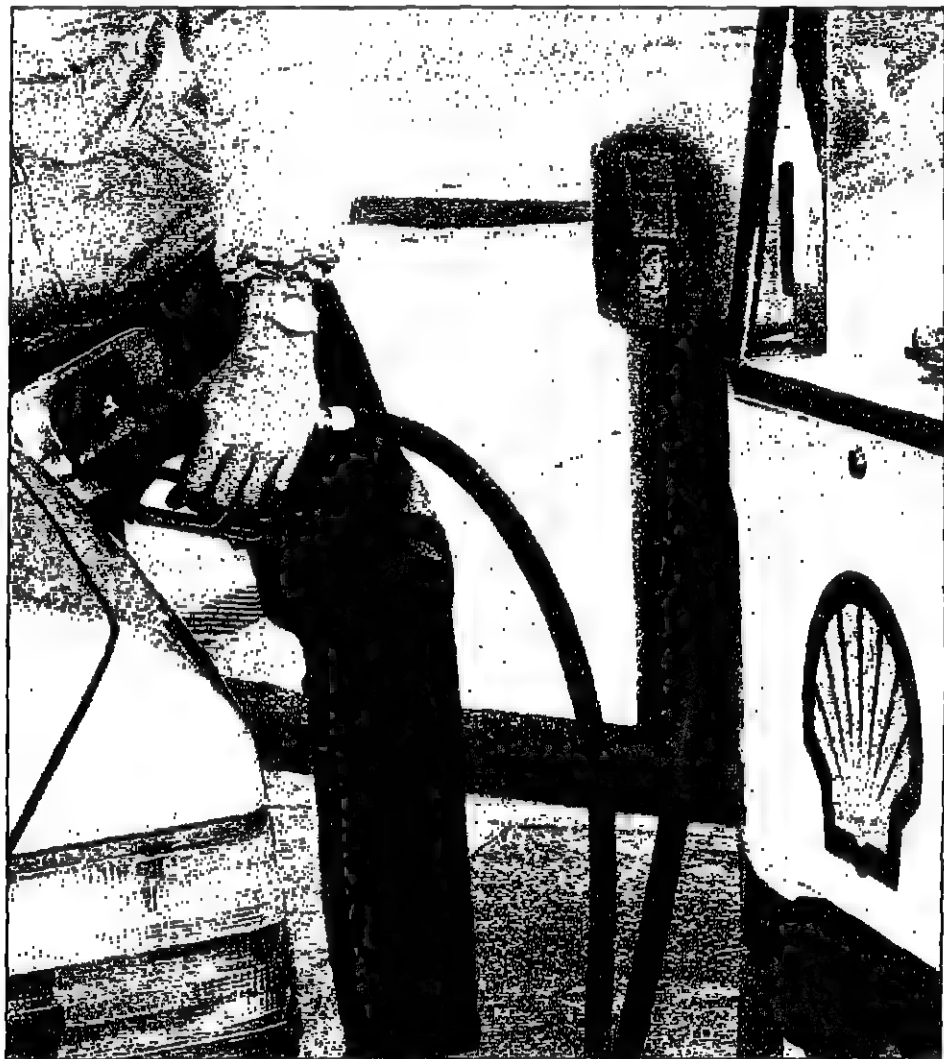
Shell claims that damage to Delta region is caused in part by oil but also from population pressure and deforestation. In the manner of the recent environmental survey of the Brent Spar, the company is funding a \$2 million independent

environmental survey of the Niger Delta. It also points out that gas flaring will be much reduced by the LNG project.

But the Shell culture remains one of 'never apologise and rarely explain'. A standard joke in the oil industry is that there is a right way, a wrong way and a Shell way of doing everything. The company has created a video on the Nigeria question, not for public but for internal consumption. The communication policy at Shell is about reaching consensus internally, only allowing information to trickle out when absolutely necessary.

Shell is undergoing its own internal turmoil. More gentle than that suffered by the people of Nigeria but unprecedented from the company that prides itself on stability and has made consensus its guiding management principle. The international head office, based in London and the Hague is shedding 30 per cent of its staff in a bid to streamline decision making and shift more responsibility to operating companies and stop back-passing.

The buck will have been passed very high up the chain over the Nigeria decision but Nigeria is important to the company and Shell expects to be there for a long time yet.



Pump power: Shell was caught out by a boycott before proving its point over Brent Spar

Small is beautiful when it comes to getting Britain back to work

When the Government announces today what forecasters believe will be a further drop in UK unemployment, ministers' increased confidence rests not just on the fact that the number of people without work is continuing to fall — but the number of people in work is continuing to rise.

But if employment is now clearly going up overall, it is going up in a highly differentiated way. Big companies are continuing to cut jobs, and it is small firms that are putting on staff, pushing up employment figures — and cutting the dole queues.

Big business went home yesterday at the end of the Confederation of British Industry's annual conference, having set out its priorities for pulling Britain round from what business leaders are fearful could shift from an economic slowdown into a new downturn. But even when the recovery was looking less rocky than it is now, big firms were still downsizing, still delaying, still re-engineering — still cutting jobs.

"CBI members are still shedding labour," says Stephen Alanbirds, of the Federation of Small Business. "They are still taking in profits by taking out labour. But there is now a recognition that it is smaller companies which are creating jobs." In his speech to the CBI conference yesterday, Adam Turner, Director-General, accepted some of the point: "Smaller firms will become increasingly important — especially when it comes to growth in employment."

Small business campaigners claim that over the past decade, small firms have created up to 2.5 million jobs in Britain, though a range of studies raises questions about their longevity, and about what kind of jobs they tend to be.

But in spite of concerns about the quality of the jobs created, campaigners for small business point to the economic effect of the long-run trend in small firms' job creation record. Stan Mendham, chief executive of the Forum of Private Business, a small firms lobby group, says: "Small firms in the Nineties are now repeating their feat of the 1980s, when they completely outperformed big business in creating new jobs." Take Moor Envelopes, a small

Employment levels are rising — but no thanks to big business. Small firms are creating the jobs, writes Philip Bassett

envelope manufacturer based in London's East End. Founded 30 months ago, the company, which supplies envelopes to printers and carries out contract mailing for firms, moved after a year to employing three people, and now with a turnover of up to £500,000 a year, has in the past 12 months expanded again to employ ten.

Natural World, a retail chain was started three years ago to plug what its husband-and-wife founders believed was a gap in the retail market for outdoor products for families — anything from compasses, to books on fossils. In that time, the company has moved from having no employees to now having 80, rising to 130 for the Christmas push. Branching out from its first shop in Cheltenham, Natural World now eight stores, with the two latest ones opening this year in Edinburgh and Glasgow. Andrew Thomas, who runs the firm, which now has a turnover of some £2.7

million, expects more growth — and more jobs — from the six stores he plans to open in the coming year.

Such stories are widespread in the small business sector, which dominates Britain's occupational structure. New census figures show that workplaces with fewer than 50 employees account for 95 per cent of the total, with those employing below ten accounting on their own for almost three quarters. A third of the workforce is employed by firms with fewer than 50 workers.

Given this kind of reach, small business is unsurprisingly being heavily targeted by political leaders in their search for business support in the run-up to the general election.

Richard Page, Small Business Minister at the Department of Trade and Industry, says the "needs of small business people are at the top of the Government's competitiveness agenda". He says the number of small firms has risen 1.2 million to 3.6 million since

the Conservatives came to power in 1979. And he claims: "The Government is giving more support to the small business sector than at any time in the history of this country."

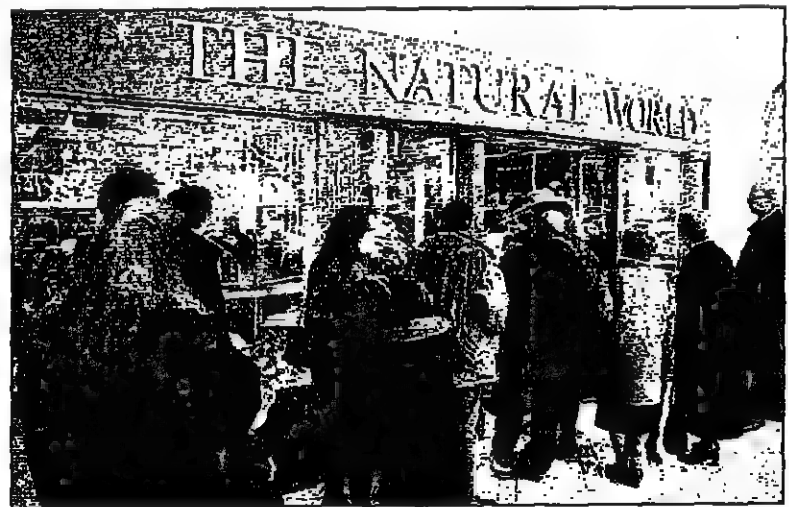
Barbara Roche, Labour's new spokeswoman on small business, says: "Small businesses are vital to Labour. As far as job creation is concerned, they are an absolutely essential sector, and for the general economy they are vital for growth." She is to step up Labour's campaign, favoured by small business, for legal moves on the late payment of debt — a move rejected by the Government as too interventionist.

Small business's rates of job growth far outstrip anything in the economy overall and contrast with the continuing employment falls in large companies, according to a new analysis by *The Times* of job data.

Since unemployment started to fall almost three years ago, employment — after a sluggish start in which job numbers continued downwards — has picked up markedly. Figures drawn from the Government's Labour Force Survey show the number of people in work has risen over the period by 491,000, or 2.3 per cent, to 21.9 million. Figures from the principal business organisations suggest that most of this growth has been among small businesses.

The pattern for the largest companies, those with more than 5,000 staff, shows a consistent trend of job losses over the period, although the most recent CBI industrial trends survey shows an upturn in employment among these businesses. Since unemployment started to fall, the level of job-shedding has been extensive. At times, the balance of those cutting jobs has been in the 80 per cent-plus range.

Big business doesn't expect much change in that pattern. Although the avalanche of job-shedding from big groups of a few years ago has eased considerably, employment in big companies is still being scaled down. Small businesses know that they remain the engine of job growth — and the Government's best hope of a continuing reduction in unemployment.



Natural World, specialising in outdoor products, created 80 jobs in three years

Betting on the Budget

THE City's bookmaker, City Index, is opening a book on how long Kenneth Clarke takes to deliver the Budget speech on November 28. Our Ken took an hour and 26 minutes last year and, in 1993, an hour and 16 minutes. An opening quote of 71-78 minutes on the duration of this year's delivery moved to a spread by late yesterday of 76-82 minutes.

Judicious buy

THE full story behind yesterday's £75 million deal by Cobham to buy Westwind Air Bearings of Dorset is simply that Cobham's finance director, the laconic and elegant Giles Irwin, was so impressed

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

with Westwind that he went out and bought it. One of his roles is judging the Business of the Year Awards in Dorset. And the winner in 1994? Why, Westwind, of course.

Vital comma

ABN Amro Hoare Govett is taking on a trio of thirtysomething research analysts, each with wide City experience. Chris Smith, 34, is joining from James Capel. Alastair Smellie, 32, from Lehman Brothers, and Jason Streets, 32, from Charterhouse Tilney.

In the 1995 Who's Who in the City, under recreations, Streets lists "Cooking, Books." Thank heavens for the comma.

In the groove

PORK belly and orange juice futures may soon be some of the more exotic contracts traded on Liffe after yesterday's link-up between the London and Chicago markets. Sadly, however, Shellack will not. Shellack was the raw material used to make gramophone records. Between 1956 and

1964, Shellack futures enjoyed almost as great a volume of business as The Beatles did in the record shops. Then came vinyl...

Contacts count

GKR, the headhunter which celebrates its silver jubilee this year, has found itself a new chairman: Henry King, the Rentokil chairman and senior partner at City solicitors Denton Hall. GKR says King, who has won friends among the boards of FT-SE companies with his work on

their deals over the years, is valued as much for his contacts as for his experience with partnership firms.

Old heads

CLEARLY stung by references to his youthfulness, CBI Director-General Adam Turner hit back yesterday in his closing speech to the confederation's annual conference. He referred to his "spray-on" grey hair and the fact that, at 39, he is younger even than his predecessor Howard Davies was when appointed to the job. "Howard of course had an advantage over me," Turner told the CBI. "Since he was actually born at the age of 40, people have always been genuinely confused about how old he is now."

COLIN CAMPBELL

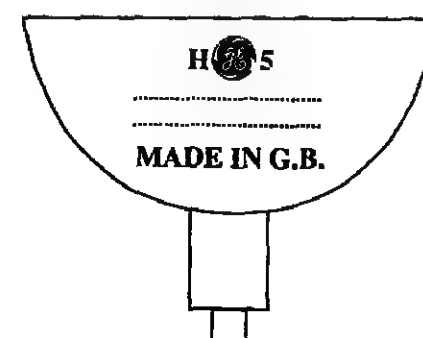


GE Lighting

PRODUCT SAFETY ANNOUNCEMENT

GE LIGHTSTREAM LOW VOLTAGE HALOGEN LAMPS
PURCHASED AFTER 1 MAY 1995

Quality checks have revealed that a small percentage of GE Lightstream MR 16 12 volt halogen display lamps manufactured after 1 May 1995 may fail during the first hours after initial light-up, causing the inner capsule to burst. The lamps are used mainly in commercial installations and GE is asking wholesalers and those responsible for lighting in commercial and public buildings to check their stocks of mirror lamps for any GE Lightstream lamps with the following date codes, as illustrated:



E 5
F 5
H 5
I 5
J 5
K 5

Any stock lamps with one of these date codes should be returned to the relevant wholesaler or contractor for replacement.

ONLY GE LIGHTSTREAM LAMPS ARE INVOLVED.
NO OTHER GE LAMPS ARE AFFECTED.

GE apologises to its users for any inconvenience caused.
If you are in any way concerned, please phone:
0181 687 3464 or 0181 687 3467.

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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Source: Fintel

* US\$M. * Price at suspension. † Ex dividend. ‡ Ex scrip.
 Δ Ex rights issue. ▽ Ex alt. § Ex capital distribution.
 - Figures or report omitted. No significant data.
 Companies in bold are available. - d. - 1990 and later.

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Hurricanes and subsidence spoil GA results

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

CARIBBEAN hurricanes, subsidence claims and increasing competition in the insurance market has led General Accident to report lower than expected pre-tax profits for the first nine months to September 30.

A rise in pre-tax profit to £346.6 million (£323.7 million) masked a difficult third quarter in which GA's worldwide underwriting deficit rose from £3 million last year to £51.6 million, and profit from UK personal motor and property insurance fell sharply.

Large claims and subsidence losses in the UK accounted for a £23 million loss, while a further £26 million loss came from hurricane damage in North America and the Caribbean. Overall, pre-tax profit for the three months to September fell to £92.6 million (£119.7 million). Third-quarter personal motor insurance profits halved to £3.4 million (£7.6 million) and per-

sonal property fell £16.4 million to £7.6 million.

After promising six-month figures, the City had expected better results and the shares slid 7p to 629p. However, analysts regard most of the losses as one-offs and forecast GA's full-year profits at £440 million (£428 million).

Meanwhile plans by GA, to buy Provident Mutual for £170 million are expected to be approved tomorrow by policyholders at the mutual life insurers' extraordinary meeting. The deal is seen as good for GA shareholders but less so for Provident's 500,000 policyholders. GA has long wanted to build its pension side and the deal will more than double funds under management at its life operations to £14 billion. It will be funded via a placing at 600p to raise £135 million. In the UK, long-term life business profits rose from £37 million to £44.9 million and new business was main-

tained in a difficult market. Nelson Robertson, chief executive, said the UK insurance market was "becoming increasingly competitive" but added that, in spite of the exceptional losses, an underwriting profit of £109.7 million had been made (£158 million).

In the commercial motor account, a third-quarter deficit of £4.9 million (£3.2 million profit), included a claims estimate of £4.5 million on a single incident when eight people were killed and 32 injured in a coach accident at Raglan, Gwent. This wiped out six-month profits, plunging the account £1.8 million into the red (£6.9 million profit).

GA's solvency margin — shareholders' funds as a percentage of non-life income — is 70 per cent, above its 1993 level. Net asset value per ordinary share is 578p and earnings per share 52.3p (£2.4p).

Tempest, page 28



Core problem: Brackenridge, the international food flavourings group, warned investors yesterday that its growth rate in the current half of its business year would fall short of its "excellent" summer performance. Peter Brackenridge, executive chairman, left, with Kirk Veal, managing director, said the

business outlook for the six months to the end of March remained "sound". The interim dividend was held unchanged at 0.5p per share. Earnings per share moved ahead to 1.75p from 1.33p. Pre-tax profit increased to £1.5 million from £924,000. Turnover was almost £2.5 million higher at £17.3 million.

Bank of Ireland advances

By PATRICIA TEHAN
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

BANK OF IRELAND boosted profits in each of its divisions, unveiling a 14.6 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to Ir£191.8 million in the half year to September 30.

Bad debt provisions rose from Ir£11.5 million to Ir£12.4 million after the bank increased the size of its general provision for possible future bad debts by Ir£8 million.

The net interest margin dropped from 4.1 per cent to 4 per cent, partly caused by an increase in the number of customers with interest-paying accounts.

The interim dividend has been increased by 17 per cent from Ir£4.25p to Ir£5p, due to be paid on January 9.

The bank has decided to reduce its requirements on dividend cover from 3.5 times to around 3 times over the next two years, so there is the potential for a faster increase in dividend.

Maurice Keene, deputy chief executive, said that given forecasts for the Irish economy, the bank "is not aware of any storms brewing" and should have a satisfactory second half.

Property dividend to be held

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

GREAT Portland Estates, the property group, gave warning yesterday that it expected to pay an unchanged full-year dividend, as it announced a small rise in interim profits.

Profits grew 10 per cent to £23.8 million, helped by an improved £2.2 million of profits from sales. But with its second-half results expected to be broadly in line with the interim, the company would pay an unchanged 8.75p at the year-end.

Great Portland, which has a major part of its portfolio in the West End of London, is troubled by a poor recovery in rent levels and patchy tenant demand. Vacant space has been reduced during the past six months to 2 per cent, but the company expects this level to rise again as more buildings come on to the market in the next six months.

During the past six months it has acquired £31 million-worth of property, including George House in Glasgow, in a strategy to reduce its reliance on central London.

The share price fell 1p to 165p. An interim dividend of 2.9p is to be paid on January 4.

Daimler forecasts big loss

By COLIN NARBROUGH

DAIMLER-BENZ, the struggling German industrial flagship, has issued a stern warning to investors that the strong mark and the massive provisions for its aerospace arm will mean "severe losses" for the full year.

The Stuttgart group, which achieved a 1994 net profit of only DM895 million on DM104 billion turnover, stunned the market in September with far worse than expected first-half figures, which showed a DM1.57 billion net loss and DM1.2 billion of provisions.

Manfred Gentz, the finance director, said that the high value of the mark and the provisions for structural adjustments in the aircraft division of Daimler-Benz Aerospace (Dasa) would cause "severe damage" to this year's net result.

Group sales in the first nine months were 3 per cent higher at DM172.5 billion, with Mercedes-Benz commercial vehicles and the debris services arm performing particularly well. In spite of adverse currency developments, the group still expects full-year sales this year to exceed the 1994 level.

In September, the company said that it expected its losses to narrow in the second half. Yesterday, Herr Gentz said that cost-cutting in all divisions and the continued favourable performance of Mercedes-Benz and debris would make a positive contribution to earnings this half.

Jürgen Schrempf, the management board chairman who took over the helm at Daimler-Benz this year from Edzard Reuter, the man who took the company down the much-criticised road towards becoming an "integrated technology" group, emphasised that the group was keeping up the "brisk pace" of its cost-cutting and structural readjustment.

Cost cuts pay off for Dickie

A downturn in the construction equipment sector pushed James Dickie, the engineering components manufacturer, to reduce costs and, as a result, to pull in new customers.

The results of its marketing and efficiency efforts bolstered performance and, in the year to August 31, it drummed up new business worth £7 million. Annual sales leapt 42 per cent to £30.8 million.

Pre-tax profit increased 51 per cent to £2 million and the final dividend, payable December 19, was set at 3.5p, which marked a rise for the year of 57 per cent.

Dividend up

Chamberlin & Hill, the Walsall foundries-to-electrical components group, has lifted its interim dividend by 0.25p to 2.50p per share on the back of a 44 per cent increase in pre-tax profit to £923,000 in the six months to September 30. Earnings per share rose to 8.52p (£9.4p). First-half turnover was 17 per cent up at £13.5 million. Operating profit was 33 per cent ahead at £948,000.

JM forecast

Worldwide platinum demand will rise 4 per cent to a high of 4.71 million ounces this year, Johnson Matthey, the precious metals technology group, predicts in its 1995 interim review of platinum group metals. But it says increased South African and Russian supplies will again leave the market in surplus.

Dealer ahead

BMG Charles Sidney, the car dealership, made profits of £3.65 million for the year to August 31, up 30 per cent on last year. Turnover more than doubled to £186 million, helped by the acquisition of Bletchley Motor Group this year. The share price was 79p (77p); the dividend is 3.7p (3.5p), payable January 22.

Offer accepted

Mervier-Swain has declared its £10.5 million recommended offer for Scantronic unconditional after receiving acceptances from shareholders representing 78.8 per cent of the ordinary shares. It has also received acceptances in respect of 54 per cent of convertible preference shares.

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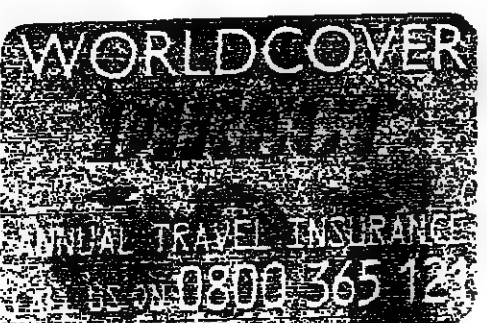
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Profit before Taxation	346.6	323.7
Profit attributable to Ordinary Shareholders	238.0	237.1
Earnings per Ordinary Share	52.3p	52.4p

- Pre-tax profit of £346.6m was achieved despite weather related losses in the third quarter of £38m net.
- UK underwriting profit of £109.7m (1994: £158.1m) follows a higher level of large claims and subsidence losses in the third quarter.
- United States and Canada report a further reduction in underwriting losses in the third quarter.
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- Increased contribution from long-term business and further excellent progress in UK life operations.
- Current solvency margin 70%. Net assets per ordinary share 578p.

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Workplace '95 is intended to be an event, not an exhibition. It will bring together the latest furniture and technology to show how the office is adapting to the more flexible working practices demanded in the office of the 1990s.

The driving force behind Workplace '95, which opens on Sunday and runs for four days, is Pat Mitchell, who has herself been a facilities manager and was marketing director of a large office furniture manufacturer.

For the past ten years she has been at Cornell University in America looking at new working practices. She now works as a consultant and is chairman of the steering committee that has organised the event. "I have been studying the office of the future all round the world for all that time even though it has only just become a buzz word," she says. "My work has been mostly on the management side looking at new working patterns."

Five years ago she wrote a brief for a new kind of event that would bring together office furniture suppliers and technological experts. "The industry needed a major event in the UK that presented the latest thinking on workplace organis-

**Workplace at
Olympia will help
managers plan
tomorrow's
world, says
Rodney Hobson**

ation and design and at which the emphasis was on how the products could best be applied to suit specific situations," she says.

She got the backing of the Office Furniture and Filing Manufacturers Association, the Federation of Electronics Industry and the British Contract Furniture Association. Ms Mitchell says: "I told them that they did not need a furniture exhibition. But customers would come to see new technology, new furniture and new techniques all put together. It would shape company policy."

"Visitors will be looking at business re-engineering and more flexible working and will want to see the furniture and technology to support those changes."

"The businessman does not want to be told how many megabits a piece of equipment has, he wants to know how it can be applied. That is why we have made the hub the centre of the event. The discussions

are the centrepiece. Visitors will be there to talk about the future as well as to see it."

The hub is the centrepiece where visitors and exhibitors can take part in round table discussions, listen to talks and debates or book a session in a business clinic. The hub will include pavilions featuring the paperless office, the cordless office—which dispenses with miles of telephone trunking—and the "virtual office" that allows staff to function wherever they are.

A lighting pavilion will show how lighting can be used to improve office environment. Around the hub will be more than 100 exhibitors.

Workplace '95 fills a gap that has existed since the International Business Show ceased in the mid 1980s. Orgatec, held in Cologne, Germany, in even numbered years, is already established as an important office venue.

Workplace, if it is a success, will complement Orgatec by being held in the odd numbered years, with possibly a symposium in the intervening year to keep the ball rolling.

Hugh Paul, sales and marketing director of K+N International, welcomes the initiative even though the company he works for has a German parent, Konig+Neurath. He says: "Once every two years at Orgatec is not frequent enough to beat the drum. A fair number of UK companies go to Cologne and there is bound to be a higher



proportion here. I am convinced there is room for both events."

K+N makes adjustable desks and chairs suitable for shared workstations. They are especially useful for wheelchair users who often require a raised workstation. At Workplace '95 it will unveil its Synchrone product that synchronises the movement of desk and chair.

Mr Paul says: "Synchrone is

aimed at the dedicated computer user. There is a hinged desk mechanism so that as you lean back in your chair you can pull the desk with you. The VDU will stay at the correct distance from your eyes and at the correct viewing angle. If you sit up all bright and perky the screen is at the back of the desk sloping down. If you lean back the screen moves up the desk and straightens. It lets you move

around the workstation. It is very useful for staff who sit with telephone headsets and type into the computer."

"People do not sit in a constant position. Even if they are in the approved position for sitting at a screen they will get stiff," he says.

For details of the programme of activities and travel and accommodation packages ring 0181-484 7733 or fax 0181-593 7892.

Fair trading
report hit
by snarl-up
Photocopier users
criticise inquiry

Photocopier users fear that the issue of unfair contracts will be jammed in the machinery of the Office of Fair Trading, Rodney Hobson writes. The latest findings in a series of inquiries that has been going on for five years will probably not be reported until early next year.

Meanwhile, the Photocopier & Business Equipment Users Association says, customers smashed for years in disputes over unsuitable machines are still ploughing their way through the courts.

Sir Bryan Carsberg, Director-General of Fair Trading, reported on the photocopier industry in March 1994. He strongly criticised dealers and leasing companies, saying his investigations had uncovered "an extraordinary variety of malpractices and excesses", and he put forward a range of recommendations for reform. That June he gave photocopier leasing companies three months to improve standards, saying he would launch a further review in early 1995.

A spokesman for OFT conceded that the latest inquiry had taken a long time, but said OFT was committed to keeping the industry under review. The spokesman admitted that some photocopier suppliers had failed to supply information by the deadline, and OFT had been hampered by the slow response. He said that consumer reaction was being taken into account. "That's what started the whole thing off."

The Equipment Users Association said, however, that it had not been contacted for comments in the current inquiry and was concerned that the views of users would be ignored.

Paul Jones, who mans the association's hotline, says: "We have doubts about whether the report will go ahead. There has been a lot of prevarication."

"The first investigation produced an outline of what went wrong but not what to do about it."

● The Photocopier and Business Equipment Users Association hotline is 0991 123154.

Companies face changes to assist disabled workers

After unsuccessful attempts by various backbenchers to introduce Bills to improve the lot of the disabled, government legislation to outlaw discrimination in employment received the Royal Assent last week, Rodney Hobson writes.

The implications for facilities managers are serious. Estimates of the potential cost of the Disability Discrimination Act range from

enormous to absolutely horrendous. Although the provisions of the Act do not come into effect until next autumn, employers will need to start thinking about making alterations to premises.

On the Government's own figures, the direct cost to employers of taking on disabled people will be about £8 million. Adapting buildings and improving access for the disabled could cost from £380

million to £1.13 billion. In addition to clauses dealing with employment, there is a section in the new legislation on the provision of services. Companies such as hotels and bus operators will pick up a bill.

The Act introduces a statutory right for employees and prospective employees not to be discriminated against on the grounds of disability. It replaces the existing 50-year-

old law that places on employers an obligation to take on a quota of registered disabled people, usually 3 per cent of the workforce.

Michael Ryley, an employment law specialist at Trowers & Hamlin, solicitors, describes the old law as toothless and a nonsense. He says: "A lot of people were not aware of the quota system and many em-

ployers who did know about it did not put it into operation. The Government realised there was a growing need for the law to be reformed so it introduced its own Bill."

Mr Ryley believes the Act will mean greatly expanded employment opportunities for disabled people, but it will expose employers to possible industrial tribunal awards on top of the cost of

compliance with the new code. He says: "While the old legislation was largely ignored in practice, employers cannot afford to ignore the new law."

The Disability Discrimination Act will operate basically along similar lines to legislation on sex and race discrimination. It will be effective when a disabled person applies for a job, is in a job or is fired from a job.

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THE TIMES

Facilities Management

The recently published Facilities Management section is now well established and recognised within the industry, and has become essential reading for anyone involved in the management of buildings and facilities. Since 1992 The Times has been the only National Newspaper to regularly devote an entire section to Facilities Management.

The Times will be producing a related supplement in March 1996 in association with Building Events to coincide with F.M. Expo 96. The Times will be producing a related supplement in March 1996 in association with Building Events to coincide with F.M. Expo 96.

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Tony Dawe rises early to find out how tidiness can help a company to clean up

Up with the lark for the dawn desk patrol

As dawn breaks over Bedford Lakes, west London, a woman in a business suit bustles through the autumn leaves to the main entrance of IBM's international marketing centre.

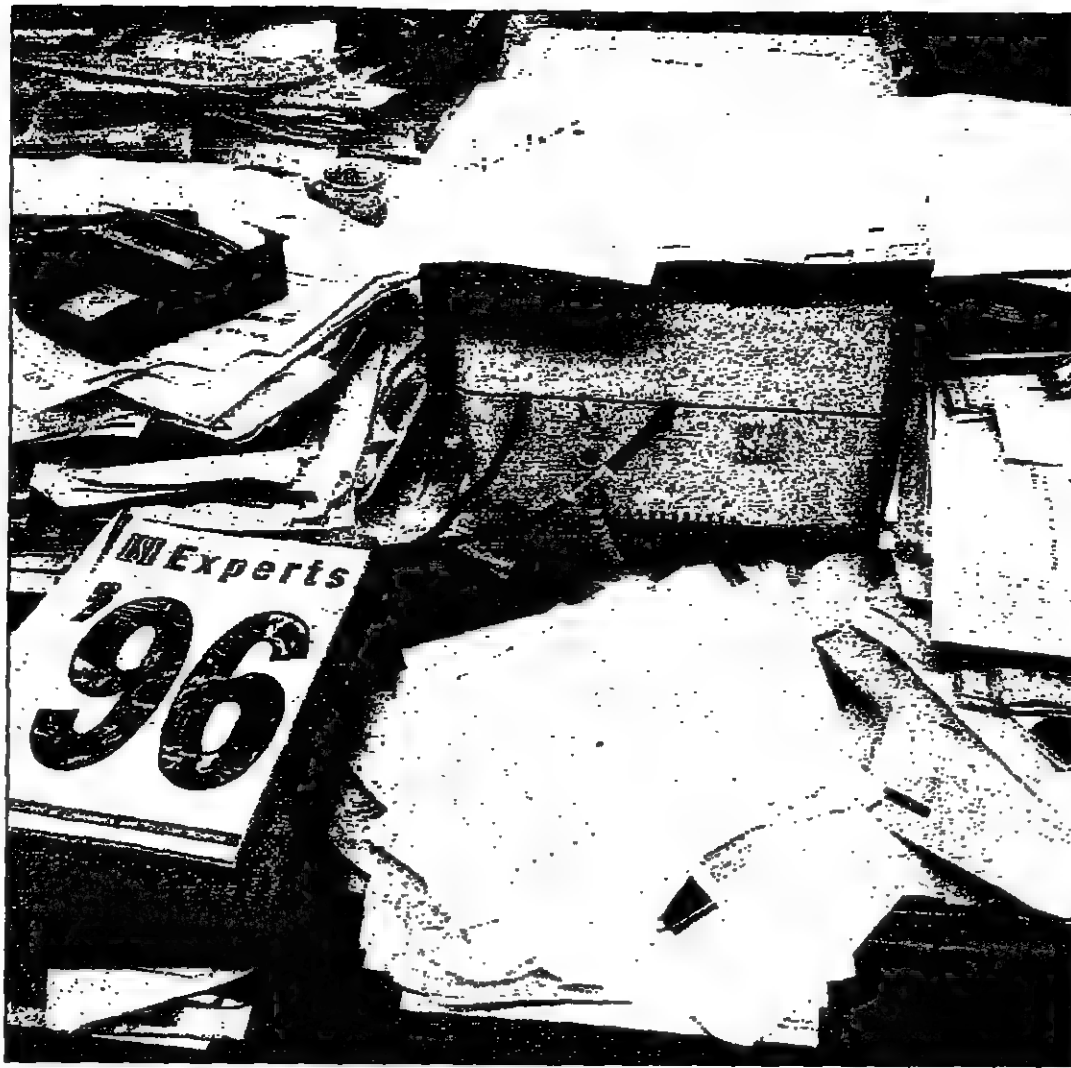
She looks unremarkable in the best traditions of her profession, for Marian Parker is on a spying mission. Only the knowing wink she exchanges with the security man reveals that she is operating with IBM's blessing.

Ms Parker is carrying out a dawn patrol, before staff arrive for work, to check that they have left their offices neat and tidy and, above all, secure. Woe betide anyone guilty of what she terms "a violation": they will be reported in triplicate and repeat offences could seriously damage their career prospects.

She is the image, space and facilities planner for Procord, the FM company which runs the centre for IBM. Her dawn patrol fits into the "image" part of her title.

She swoops on one group of offices at a time, targeting an average of 24 desks. This morning, a worrying sight immediately meets her eyes: a computer left logged on atop a filing cabinet. It should have been switched off and replaced on the correct desk. This failure earns the guilty occupant a mark of one out of five.

She frowns at a tatty poster stuck on the side of another filing cabinet, at flip chart packaging left on the floor and at boxes stuffed untidily under one desk. "This does not present the image that IBM wants to project, especially as customers are flying in from all over Europe to visit these offices," Ms Parker says. Safety and security are just as



So you thought desk inspections ended at school: a mess like this could warrant a reprimand at IBM

important as image. Peter Lawson, the general service specialist and her assistant, crawls under desks to inspect plugs and power points. Every plug must be checked by an engineer at least once a year and labelled. He finds all is well.

His delight is tempered by the discovery of a set of keys left in a filing cabinet. They should have been locked away in the key safe, a failure which will earn someone else a black mark. Ms Parker and Mr Lawson decide, however, that a toy rabbit left on top of one computer is acceptable and no marks will be deducted from its owner.

Repeat offences could seriously damage their career prospects

"The regime may sound strict," Ms Parker says, "but we have a system in place that works and that makes the whole facility and working relationships more successful."

The basic rules are that all members of staff should leave their desks clean and tidy and their cupboards locked when they go home or to lunch or meetings. Hard copy, disks and tapes should be locked away, confidential documents collected from the print room and ones which are no longer needed put in the shredder. "The clear desk policy follows you wherever you go, in conference rooms and other people's offices," Ms Parker says.

Security staff check that the policy is being obeyed in each department four times a year, while Ms Parker conducts her "image surveys" once a year.

Copies of her report, giving each work station a mark from one to five, are sent to the head of department, to his or her superior, to the IBM property portfolio manager and to Procord's manager on the site.

"The report is sent to so many people to ensure that something is done about it," Mr Lawson says. "It is up to the department manager to make sure that these violations are handled but if a follow-up check carried out within a couple of weeks

vacant this afternoon so that Miss Jones can use it, but Mr Smith will need to clear his files, most of which will stay in the office."

This requires space planning, which occupies most of Ms Parker's time. The hot-desking policy has been so successful that in the three years since the 187,000 sq ft Bedford Lakes centre opened, staff numbers have increased from 750 to 1,300 while the total allocation of desks and storage has remained almost static.

Electronic filing has helped to achieve this but Ms Parker says: "We still have people who prefer to use paper in a filing system." Each "mobile worker" is provided with a fixed amount of space for files and personal effects while "permanent workers" get an extra cupboard beneath their desks. Centralised storage is provided by 300 Kardex Systems "Times-Two" units, consisting of two floor-to-ceiling filing

The dustbusters can make life at work healthier

Train staff to help to maintain their own high-tech equipment

The sales director of a cleaning products company has suggested a way for facilities managers to save money on outsourcing: get the staff to clean their own equipment. Rodney Hobson writes.

This would not only save money but would improve health, hygiene, aesthetics and motivation in the workplace, says Owen Lambkin at Automation Facilities, one of the leading European manufacturers of computer and office cleaning products.

Mr Lambkin argues that while contracting out operations can save money, the reverse can be true. "In the ten years since facilities management began to emerge as a workable idea, the office environment has changed radically and often beyond recognition," he says. "Computers, laser printers, fax machines, photocopiers and complex telephone systems now adorn our desks at great capital cost. But while most organisations invest considerable sums in employing outside contractors to conduct general cleaning duties, who takes responsibility for cleaning and maintaining the technological tools on which we now rely?"

He argues that specialist computer cleaning firms are thin on the ground and commercial cleaners would probably prefer not to have the responsibility for keyboards and computer disk drives.

"The answer lies in the introduction of a clean office policy within a company's facilities management system," he says. "It works by encouraging employees to take responsibility themselves for the upkeep and appearance of their equipment. It takes just minutes each week."

Tasks would include cleaning computer heads regularly to prevent costly downtime, sanitising communal telephones to prevent cross-infection and cleaning day-to-day equipment such as fax machines and photocopiers to ensure efficiency.

"At the heart of the clean office philosophy are an organisation's employees, who are encouraged to ask a series of questions," he says. "Are we making the most of our new equipment or are we being hampered, irritated and even endangered by dirty screens, sticky keyboards and contaminated earpieces? Have our cleaning programmes kept pace with progress or do we draw a line at a duster and a vacuum cleaner? When was the last time the screen of my computer monitor was cleaned properly?"

Mr Lambkin says that static electricity attracts dust and dirt into machinery as well as on to screens. He says: "The chances are that this has not occurred to staff and there is no reason why it should have. You would soon notice if your floor was not vacuumed or if your desk was not dusted. But static cannot be seen and the dust and dirt it attracts is hardly visible until it builds up, blurring the screen image and increasing the possibility of errors and eye strain."

Computer monitors are the most visible area where dirt collects yet, because they are in front of us constantly, we may be unaware of the very gradual build-up of contamination as it slowly compromises the clarity of our work and the aesthetics of our working environment."

Dust, dirt, fluff and crumbs accumulate in keyboards, and perspiration turns sticky on the key faces. The operation of the computer mouse will deteriorate as the roller ball gathers grime.

"The most noticeable and contentious problem is the photocopier, the workhorse of every office that almost everyone neglects but which is still expected to produce clean copies month in, month out," he says. "Only when marks appear on the paper or when the system jams do we consider cleaning and maintenance—and then it is invariably time to call a mechanic."

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MUSIC

Was it possible for composers to retain their integrity while working under the great dictators?



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THE TIMES ARTS



RADIO

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TOMORROW

Reviews of Diana Rigg's return to the National; plus Bowie at Wembley and the new films

MUSIC: Richard Morrison previews the Royal Opera's staging of a masterpiece composed inside Nazi Germany

When tyrants call the tune

There is a savage passage in *Testimony*, the secret memoirs of Shostakovich, in which the Soviet Union's greatest composer rants against the Western press. "The typical Western journalist is an uneducated, obnoxious and profoundly cynical person. Every one of these pushy fellows wants me to answer his stupid questions 'daringly', and these gentlemen take offence when they don't hear what they want. Why do I have to answer? Why do I have to risk my life?"

One may well imagine the questions. "What does Comrade Shostakovich really think about the dictatorship under which he lives? What does his music really mean? What were his feelings when Stalin's henchmen denounced him in 1936 and 1948? Come on, Dmitri, you can confide in me. Be outspoken. Be a hero. Give me a story."

To anybody who loves the arts, great artists are heroes. So when they refuse to behave heroically — and particularly when they seem to be colluding with evil authorities to buy themselves a quiet life — the sense of betrayal can be intense. Some commentators would even claim that there can be no great art produced at the behest of immoral regimes. That certainly seems to be the view purveyed by the Hayward Gallery's current *Art and Power* exhibition — in which some really grotesque art is brilliantly presented to support the thesis that virtually nothing of integrity was created in Italy, Spain, Russia or Germany while the monster dictators were in charge. Yet musicians, at least, have always taken a circumspect

view of their position in harsh regimes. To begin with, music is infinitely capable of conveying to sympathetic listeners a coded meaning which the uninitiated would find difficult to detect — or at least to prove. Consider how biblical stories of Jewish exile and captivity have been treated "covertly" by composers throughout the centuries. William Byrd, an

"We need brave music. I mean brave because it is truthful"

English Catholic working under the scrutiny of Elizabeth I's spies, reserved his most intense music for biblical texts referring to the "lost city" or anticipating "liberation".

Centuries later, the same subject-matter — transmuted into spirituals such as *Go down, Moses* or *Deep River* — became similarly symbolic of liberation to plantation slaves. Later still, when Verdi wrote his *Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves* in *Nabucco*, there was only one meaning for opera audiences in Milan: this was a cry for liberation from their hated Austrian rulers.

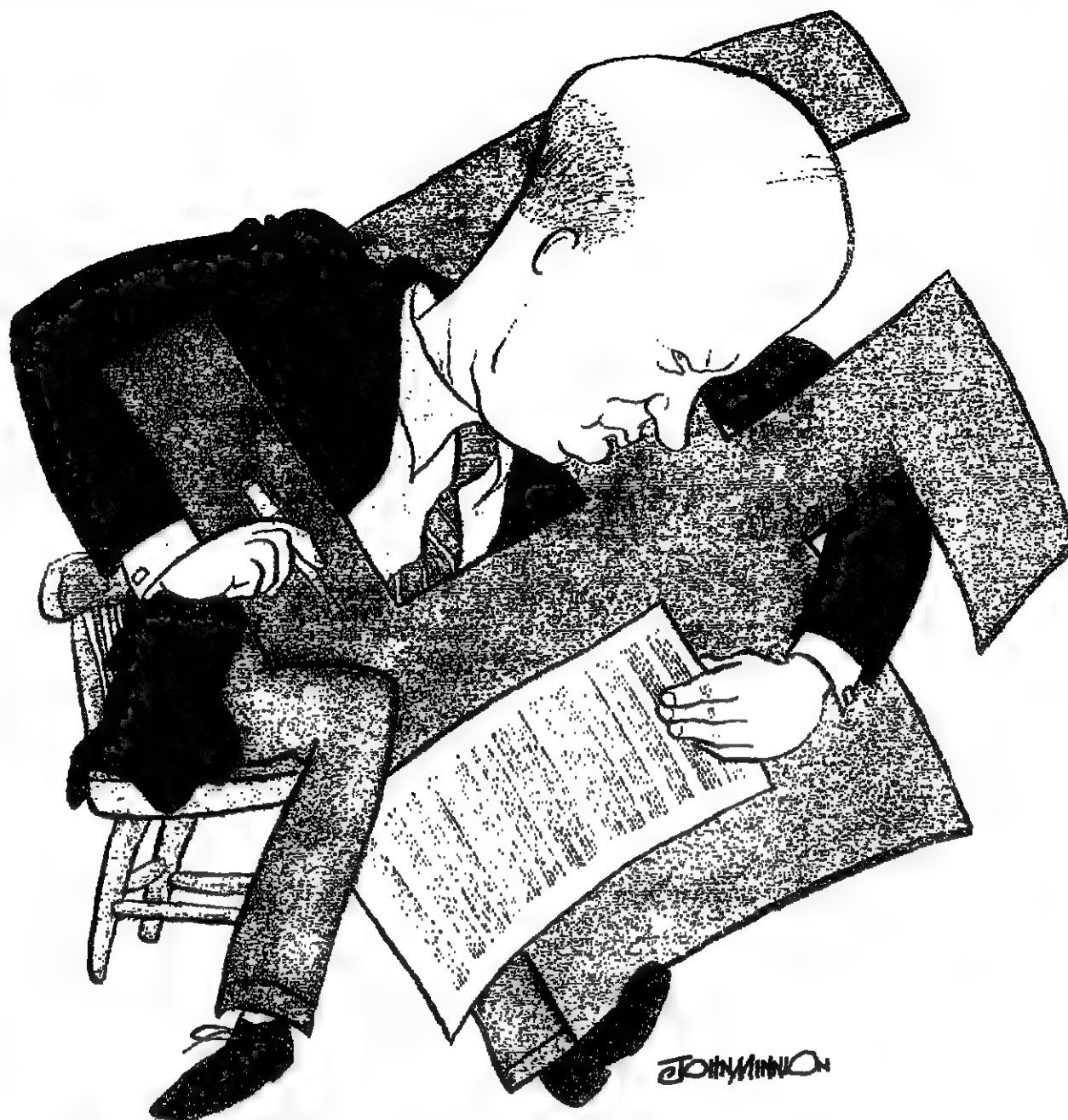
Shostakovich was the master of such covert meaning. Today most people believe his Fifth Symphony not to be a "Soviet Artist's Reply to Just Criticism", but the reverse: a fist raised in sardonic defiance. In other words, the music contradicts its official

function. "We don't need brave words on music," Shostakovich said in *Testimony*. "We need brave music. I mean brave because it is truthful."

The German conductor Wilhelm Furtwängler probably took a similar view in Nazi Germany. If he could preserve the splendour of the Berlin Philharmonic and the glorious Austro-German musical heritage — and do a little to help Jewish colleagues in the process — then, he reasoned, putting up with Hitler was worth it. Whether it was right for a man of his supposed sensitivity to turn a blind eye to blatant evil (as Richard Strauss and Herbert von Karajan also did) is the central question of Ronald Harwood's fascinating play, *Taking Sides*. The secondary question, of course, is "what would you have done?"

Tomorrow these questions will be raised again, when the Royal Opera stages Paul Hindemith's masterpiece, *Mathis der Maler*, on the hundredth anniversary of the composer's birth. For this opera is expressly about the dilemma of how far an artist should engage with the politics of his times. And it was written at the very moment when that dilemma was most painful for Hindemith himself.

He was the most brilliant German composer of his generation, and perceived himself (rightly) as the heir to a tradition that stretched back beyond Bach to Schütz and the 16th-century masters whose music is often echoed in *Mathis*. And in the early 1930s his reputation was at its peak. There was but one cloud on his horizon: the sudden rise to power of the Nazis. Hindemith's wife was Jewish. So



were his closest musical colleagues. It was not long before the Nazis were labelling him a *Kultur Bolschewist* and suppressing his music. Many fellow musicians emigrated. Others disappeared.

This is the background against which *Mathis* was composed. The libretto (by Hindemith himself) tells of

how the 16th-century German artist Matthias Grünewald, painter of the astounding Isenheim altarpiece, feels compelled to leave his sheltered life as court painter to the Archbishop of Mainz and play a part in the 1525 Peasants' Uprising. Direct engagement with the war leads to disillusion, however, and after a

series of apocalyptic visions (taken by Hindemith directly from the iconography of the Isenheim altarpiece), Mathis realises that his mission should be to rise above temporal politics and reveal a higher truth through his art.

The contemporary significance of the work was apparent from the start. It was

banned in Germany in 1934 and not premiered until 1938 in Zurich. Yet all Hindemith had done was to articulate a plea for the artist to be free to choose his own destiny. Even that was too much. In January 1935, the Nazi-controlled journal *Die Musik* wrote: "When a man like Hindemith lives and works for 14 years among

Jews and feels himself at ease in their company, consorts almost exclusively with Jews, and is loved by them; when he commits the foulest perversions of German music, we have a right to reject him and his environment."

Obscene words. And yet Hindemith, though he travelled widely, maintained his German home for another three years. Not until 1938 did he flee to Switzerland, then America. Was he wrong to appease the Nazis for so long? Or was it a braver decision to stay and try to resist from within — in however small a way — than to run to safety abroad? The argument can never be absolutely settled.

What will be easier to judge after tomorrow is whether *Mathis* still has a message for us. Its Covent Garden director, the American contralto Peter Sellars, has offered some characteristic provocation to hype up his staging. Referring to a "crackdown" on immigrants and homosexuals in present-day America, he notes that "these were the groups that were being attacked by Hitler, and now we are watching it all over again."

Well, anybody crass enough to compare 1995 California with 1935 Berlin ought to be sent to the Holocaust Museum in Washington DC for a short but traumatic lesson in 20th-century history. The great achievement of Shostakovich, Prokofiev, Hindemith and all the other ostensibly "passive" geniuses who lived within totalitarian nightmares was that they used all their guile and craft to create art that spoke eloquently of their be-nighted condition, while managing to survive. They worked in perpetual fear of the midnight knock on the door, yet produced masterpieces. Would that the composers of our comparatively censored era could deliver operas with half the integrity of *Mathis der Maler*.

● *Mathis der Maler* opens tomorrow at the Royal Opera House (0171-304-4000)

Chris Parker taps an appreciative foot at the third London Jazz Festival

Given that the third London Jazz Festival's aim is to celebrate both the current "vibrant jazz scene" and the city's "position as a unique focal point for music worldwide", the choice of composer/jazz theorist George Russell as the event's first major international attraction was a singularly appropriate one. His 15-piece big band is the living embodiment of vibrancy, unrivalled in its ability to thrill mind and body alike; it also draws most of its personnel from a core of British musicians first assembled for Russell's first British tour a decade ago.

Russell rose to prominence in the late 1940s, working with Dizzy Gillespie on his most famous composition, *Cubana Be/Cubana Bop*, and this concert, virtually a chronological survey of his extraordinary output since then, began with this exploration of the ground between Latin music and bebop.

Lively and accessible as this, and all Russell's music is, however, it demands and richly rewards sustained and thoughtful attention. So it was no surprise to find that he devoted the bulk of the rest of a two-and-a-half-hour concert to just three pieces: *Living Time*, a 1972 commission for Bill Evans; the folksong-based *An American Trilogy* and *It's About Time*, a new piece commissioned by the Arts Council and Stockholm's Svenska Rikskonserten.

All three compositions

Free spirits in full flight



Russell: living jazz history

showcased Russell's most immediately obvious skill: an ability to build and then sustain the most unrestrained musical climaxes this side of Scriabin's *Poem of Ecstasy*, but they also highlighted subtler aspects of his art. Few jazz composers, for instance, handle contrast, dynamic and textural, with such assurance; none so effortlessly weaves so much jazz history, from bebop through modal jazz to fusion and outright funk, into so rich and satisfying a tapestry of sound.

Personal, rather than jazz, history is woven into the music produced by Giant Steps, British composer/saxophonist Diane McLoughlin's 17-piece big band.

Drawn partly from the heritage of her Ukrainian mother and partly from her own interests in everything from straight-ahead jazz and classical music to rock and funk, her compositions — notably the three-part *Ukrainian Suite*, are at once attractively punchy and highly emotive, imbued as they are with the plangent wistfulness found in East European folk music.

Although some of her pieces were a little over-reliant on basic rock beats instead of subtler jazz rhythms, McLoughlin nevertheless demonstrated considerable skill in the deployment of her forces, enabling trombonists Annie Whitehead and Mark Bassey in particular to shine, and providing guest singer Ian Shaw with a couple of cogent vehicles for one of the most wide-ranging, flexible voices in the music.

One of the essential functions of festivals like this is to give young, relatively unknown players a chance to shine, and 22-year-old Lon-

don-born composer/pianist Nikki Yeoh seized hers with both hands. Beginning her set with something of a novelty — duetting with a prerecorded video of herself — she swiftly showed that she combines the quickness and originality of thought of a jazz improviser with the restraint, delicacy and attention to nuance commonly associated with classical pianists.

Typically, she sets up a jaunty, percussive repeated figure, then bounces idiosyncratic, even quirky, extemporisations off it, producing music of arresting individuality.

It was left to an established master with nearly a dozen solo-piano albums under his belt, however, to provide the individual highlight of the festival thus far. Like George Russell in the big-band field, Howard Riley draws on the whole jazz-piano tradition in his solo playing, employing a faultless technique honed over 30 years to filter everything from stride through bebop to free music through a fertile musical imagination.

Beginning an hour-long set with a wonderfully chunky version of Thelonious Monk's *Round Midnight*, and subsequently interspersing his own pieces with utterly individual versions of standards, Riley confirmed his reputation as one of the music's most accomplished and original pianists with an extraordinary display of fiercely concentrated but exhilarating improvisational imagination.

Flogging the dead horse of bias

THE Queen's Speech today will announce another Broadcasting Bill and one key battleground during its passage through Parliament is likely to be whether it should contain a clause imposing impartiality on broadcasters, including the BBC. That, along with two audience surveys last week, means the question of BBC bias is once more near the top of the agenda.

Neither survey, from the BBC itself and the Broadcasting Standards Council, had much comfort to offer Tory politicians who are said to be trying to rein in the BBC ahead of the general election campaign. The best that can be said in the politicians' cause



is that, according to the BBC survey, 4 per cent of complaints are about bias and, in the bias category, 16 per cent concern political bias. People who claim to hear bias are split more or less 50-50 as to whether the BBC is Tory-biased or Labour-biased.

This is a thin string on which to hang an impartiality clause but of course the purpose of the Tory thunder is to intimidate the BBC in general, BBC Radio in particular and the *Today* programme most especially. This Government is not the first to want *Today* to transmute a couple of letters in

its name and become the "Toady" programme.

About the only merit of a bias clause in the Act is that it would posit the prospect of a fantastic piece of entertainment: John Humphrys going to court to be cross-examined by some eminent QC. One could sell tickets for that.

The fact is that politicians queue to be interviewed on *Today* and then queue to complain about it. 'Twas ever thus. But the audience is clearly more sophisticated than the politicians, and knows the difference between aggression and bias.

Humphrys and Co are tough on Tories, less tough on politicians of a different hue.

This is exactly as it should be, for John Major purports to run our lives whereas Tony Blair only aspires to do so.

The Government makes news every day, the Opposition is mostly concerned with reacting to that news. Thus, Labour politicians are broadcast attacking the Government while its own spokespersons get the treatment from Humphrys et al.

But the research shows that listeners see this as perfectly normal. Politicians bleating about bias are flogging a dead horse and the horse is no less deceased just because the Queen is required to ride it.

PETER BARNARD

Kevin takes cans off, sips tea, scratches scratch. **THIS SOUNDS LOAF-ISH. It is. Meatloaf.** Salma shouts **WE'RE PLAYING MEATLOAF. CALL THE RADIO ONE HELPLINE.** Kevin looks at running order **Has every Meatloaf song title got to have a bracket in it? Like 'I'd Lie For You (And That's The Truth)'. YEAH, AND AT LEAST THIRTY WORDS IN IT AS WELL.**

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VISUAL ART
Impressionist fever hits the Windy City as the largest ever Monet exhibition goes on display



YOUNG ARTS
I've got you under my skins: Status Quo's Jeff Rich introduces children to the finer points of drum technique

THE TIMES ARTS



DANCE 1
Even the veteran presence of Yelena Pankova cannot save the Ballet Classique from mediocrity



DANCE 2
A Martha Graham tribute from Robert Wilson brings out the hippest of Manhattan crowds

The iron bones within the velvet hand

VISUAL ART: John Russell Taylor looks beyond the T-shirts at Chicago's spectacular Monet exhibition

Biggest is not necessarily best, but it sometimes helps. The main selling point of the Chicago Art Institute's current show, *Claude Monet 1840-1926*, seems to be that it is the largest assemblage of the artist's works together in one place that there ever has been and most likely ever will be. The result, predictably, has been to provoke Monet fever: hundreds queuing up before the doors open at 8.45 each morning, Monet T-shirts and water-lily umbrellas everywhere, giant displays of books on Monet in every bookshop in town.

Despite all the hoopla, it must be admitted that Monet is one of those artists with whom more is, well, more. He had an exceptionally long career of constant self-discovery and rediscovery and he thought on a large scale. Not always in terms of the individual picture (although sometimes that too), but in terms of balancing and articulating series of pictures to make them into a complex whole.

Probably the most breathtaking single effect in the show is achieved in the room where 16 of the water-lily paintings Monet showed together as a series in 1909 are reunited on one curving wall. As one's eye travels around the room, observing the slight shifts of emphasis, changes of colour and composition from canvas to canvas, it is as though the gallery itself dissolves into the shifting, watery world of the paintings. To a lesser extent, the same sort of engulfing effect is produced in the galleries with the larger, later water-

lilies and other aspects of the garden at Giverny, and in the rooms which bring together several of the Palace of Westminster pictures and several of the grain stacks.

In general this show steers carefully clear of duplicating the *Monet in the Nineties* exhibition which travelled the world recently. One would never guess here, for instance, how many times he painted

He knew what he wanted to do, and how to do it

the facade of Rouen Cathedral in the early 1890s, presumably because the bringing together of such an array was the big sensation of that show. But then Monet was so prolific that it is perfectly possible to mount a show of 159 works, mostly substantial oils, without repeating former effects.

And this show definitely has a focus of its own. As far as possible it concentrates on Monet's own choices among his works. Some 30 pictures that he selected for what we would now call his mid-career retrospective in Paris in 1889 are reassembled for the first time since. On a smaller scale, dismembered works such as the paintings for a door in Durand-Ruel's apartment are brought together again, as far

as possible, to be seen as originally intended.

One thing which emerges more clearly than ever in this show is that Monet did not suddenly hit on the idea of painting in series on the banks of the River Creuse in 1889. By the way in which the pictures of, say, the Gare St Lazare in 1877 or the famous cliffs at Etretat in 1883 are hung together and related to one another on the walls of the gallery, one can see the notion of the series gradually crystallising years before Monet consciously started painting that way.

Also, as the paintings are hung, where possible, in chronological order, the gradual diffusion of his inspiration becomes clear. Near the beginning, the show is full of famous postcards, but little by little we move away from the single, immediately eye-catching image, and towards a much more modern concept, of the group of pictures which support one another and presuppose one another in a dealer's gallery. Whether or not this was a deliberate political programme on Monet's part, its effect in reducing the Salons' domination of the art world is unmistakable.

Does such an inclusive show propose a "new" Monet? Certainly the most consistent one comes away with is respect for Monet's sheer technical skill. The most general association with Monet is probably the image of the T-shirts and umbrellas, of a sort of unfettered prettiness, a warm bath in the sensuality of fluid forms and glowing colours. Of course, that element



An artist ruled by head, not heart: Monet's Hotel des Roches Noires, Trouville (1870)

is present in the show, but it is counteracted by a regular awareness of the tough reasonableness beneath the slight lyric grace. In many respects Monet himself was responsible for any misunderstanding on that score, with his deliberate spreading of misinformation about his working methods, giving the public to understand that his paintings all sprang from the unpremeditated inspiration of the moment, and dissimulating the long sessions of reconsider-

ation, revision and sometimes wholesale repainting that took place afterwards.

But seeing so much of his work together, and observing how carefully he would turn subjects round and round in his mind, working and reworking them until they approached most closely some platonic ideal of his own, makes one pause and reassess the popular myth. No matter how seductive the surface, there is clearly nothing finally left to chance. Here is an artist

who knew very early on precisely what he wanted to do and how he wanted to do it. It is this underlying certainty of technique and direction which makes such a large show supportable and illuminating. One never comes to the end of finding out about Monet, because he never came to the end of finding out about himself.

● Claude Monet 1840-1926 is at the Art Institute of Chicago, 111 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago (901-312-4333) until Nov 25

It sure beats music lessons

Jennai Cox joins Status Quo drummer Jeff Rich at one of his school percussion workshops

There is commotion in the assembly hall. A hundred under-11s are swinging their heads and jutting their torsos from side to side. Amid the din, teachers exchange apprehensive smiles. The school hall has become a one-man performance concert room and Jeff Rich, drummer for Status Quo, is taking a percussion workshop.

After giving a lecture on the history of the drum as a favour to his children's headmaster, Rich found himself on a 50-school countrywide tour. Primary, secondary and senior schools in the private and state sectors have all played host to the wild-haired drummer who, after rejoining Status Quo for an international tour this winter, kicks off 1996 with shows at Eton and schools in the Falkland Islands.

"I was more nervous for the first one than for a concert," he says. "Now I love to watch the kids' faces, see what they are getting out of it. Percussion is something inside all of us; it is something I can share."

The penultimate venue this year was Allfarthings Primary in Wandsworth, southwest London, featuring in the school's music and dance week. In front of a blanket of fascinated faces and with the help of his drum technician, Andrew Carman, Rich set up his kit, as well as his collection of old drums.

"I discovered the drums when I was about nine," he tells his audience. "I knew that was the instrument I wanted to play." But progressing from hitting biscuit tins with his mother's knitting needles to playing for Status Quo involved a good deal of luck, Rich says. Part of the master class is to remind schoolchildren that determination and dedication might get them to the top, but finishing school and acquiring a skill to fall back on is still important. Driving minibuses sits alongside playing with Elton John on Rich's CV.

The drum, his audience is told, is one of the oldest instruments known to man, and the hollow log held up before them is one of the earliest kinds. Initially played on its side, the trunk was later turned upright and covered

with animal skin stretched to different tensions to produce various sounds. The shape of the drum base changed over the years as did the material used to make them, evolving into today's steel and birch wood, a full kit costing around £2,500.

Keeping the attention of 100 children for an hour and a half means Rich has to get them involved. They are told to discover if they have "natural independence" by tapping their heads while rubbing their tummies and invited to chant while Rich demonstrates the "mummy/daddy" drum roll and explains the difference between the orthodox grip and match grip of the drum stick.

A very loud lesson in the similarities of the African



burrundi rhythm and the American shuffle follows, to show how different kinds of music feed off each other. "Never restrict yourself to one type," Rich says. "Listen to jazz, rock, pop and classical, or you'll be hopeless at auditions."

The class ends with the children taking up tambourines and shakers to join the drummer in a two-minute spontaneous performance. To the children it is the highlight of the event, but to Rich it is often an insight into the status of music in schools.

"Sometimes there are hardly any percussion instruments so only a few can join in at a time, and at other schools there are hundreds," he says. "I can ask in some schools if anyone plays an instrument and hardly any raise their hands. If I can get one child to learn an instrument, I have done my job."

● Details of master class from: *Handel Artists, Handle House, 1 Albion Place, Galena Road, Hammersmith, London W6 0QT*

DANCE: Ballet Classique d'Europe visits Britain; Robert Wilson celebrates the life of Martha Graham in New York

The curtain rises on a bare, badly lit stage. As a lifeless recording of Minkus starts up and the first dancers make their entry, your heart begins to sink. For this is clearly going to be another one of those ad-hoc little ballet troupes trying to make a few bob peddling their pirouettes in a gruelling series of one-night stands.

The troupe in question is the Paris-based Ballet Classique d'Europe, made up of 15

Plastic smiles and heavy feet

dancers from various European companies. Its director is the British dancer Adrian Davies, who enjoyed a brief career with the Royal Ballet in the mid-1970s. This current tour, which ends in Stirling on December 3, marks the troupe's British debut.

The company boasts a line-

up of "Kirov stars", although none of them is actually still employed in St Petersburg. Yelena Pankova (who de-camped to Germany) is the biggest name, fondly remembered from her days with the Kirov. She is also the only reason to support this otherwise disappointing enterprise.

The programming is slightly more ambitious than most. Not only do we get the white pas de deux from *Swan Lake* and variations from *La Bayadere*, there is also a rare chance to see a substantial chunk of *Paquita* and a new work by Ruben Echeverria, *Tangos at Midnight*, that at

least has the advantage of providing a contrast to the sparkle and sunlight of the classical variations.

At Wimbledon Theatre this week it didn't take long to notice that performance standards are erratic and, at times, lamentably low. One soloist after another heavy-footed it through the *Bayadere* segment (the dances in honour of Solor and Camzaiti's betrothal, plastic smiles at the ready). A few bright sparks lit up the *Paquita* variations (Corine Beauvais was notable in both this and *Bayadere*), but for the most part the evening proved that you can't just throw dancers onto a stage, no matter how well trained they are, and expect them to look like a proper ballet company.

Tangos at Midnight tried to

give us the seedy bars and dimly-lit back streets of Buenos Aires, with pointe shoes substituting for stiletto heels and neo-classicism for the traditional tango vocabulary. Sharp proud poses vied for effect with sky-high legs and endless arabesques. Couples joined and parted; men tried to look virile; and the women wrapped their black stockings around wooden chairs, inadvertently reminding us that Marlene Dietrich did it so much better all those years ago.

And what of Pankova? She remains a jewelled curiosity, capable of strange flights of fancy in her dancing that no one else could get away with. Her Act II pas de deux from *Swan Lake* (with Francesco Villalich) was off in a world of its own, distressed, dramatic and shaped with a quivering beauty.

DEBRA CRAINE

Grave injustice

Martha Graham's legend continues to grow apace since her death, whether through Madonna's planned film or *Snow on the Mesa*, an hour-long performance by Robert Wilson based on her life. The opening gala at New York's City Center was typical of the currently modish status of both Graham and Wilson: everyone from Midori to Manhattan's hippest couple, Lou Reed and Laurie Anderson, were in attendance, not to mention the fashion posse out for Donna Karan's costumes.

If this creative pairing might seem paradoxical — Graham associated with raw American energy, Wilson with languid European elegance — both are native avant-gardists subsequently accepted by mainstream culture.

Despite the advance publicity and froth of fashionable anticipation, Wilson's piece with the Martha Graham Dance Company proved to be a rather embarrassing set of clichéd *tableaux vivants*, almost a parody of Wilson's signature elements all stuck together. At times laughably obvious — a red-clad dancer

with champagne flute represented, hey!, Graham's drink problem — every set piece seemed like a version of previous Wilsonian moments, the same dancer lying on a metal couch and reciting a monologue like a cheesy reprise of his *I was Sitting on my Patio*... Even the lighting resembled a barely shuffled deck of Wilson's greatest hits, his signature use of bold colours and stark spotlights here appearing merely camp.

Snow on the Mesa finally smelt as if thrown together with far too little time, a sketchy reprise of some easy visual effects. The problem, as standing ovation and rave reviews suggest, is that Wilson has become one of the untouchables, his current fame in exact proportion to the quality of his work. If this hackneyed bio proved anything, it was that there can be minimal kitsch just as vulgar as the rococo version.

By contrast, the opening dance, Graham's own *Chronicle* of 1936, was a bracing, bravura performance of a still entirely convincing classic.

ADRIAN DANNATT

Mind games

THE TIMES THEATRE CLUB

phantly surreal farce *Hysteria*, which originally opened at the Royal Court Theatre in 1993, returns as the second play in the Royal Court Classics Season at the Duke of York's Theatre.

First time around, *Hysteria* won the Olivier Award for Best Comedy and the Writers Guild Award for Best Play, and two actors from the original production are back: Henry Goodman as Freud and Tim Potter as Dali. Theatre Club members can buy tickets for £15 (normally up to £22.50) for Nov 24-Dec 16 performances, and receive a complimentary programme. Tel 0171-836 5122 to book, quoting your membership number

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● THE Phantom Of The Opera theatre, dinner and cabaret package was such a success during Blow your Mind — See a Show month that we are running it again. The offer comprises seats in the uppermost tier for the show at Her Majesty's Theatre in London's West End, followed by a two-course dinner with wine and cabaret at the Centre Stage restaurant. Only £29 per person on any Friday evening until Christmas. Tel 0800 335588

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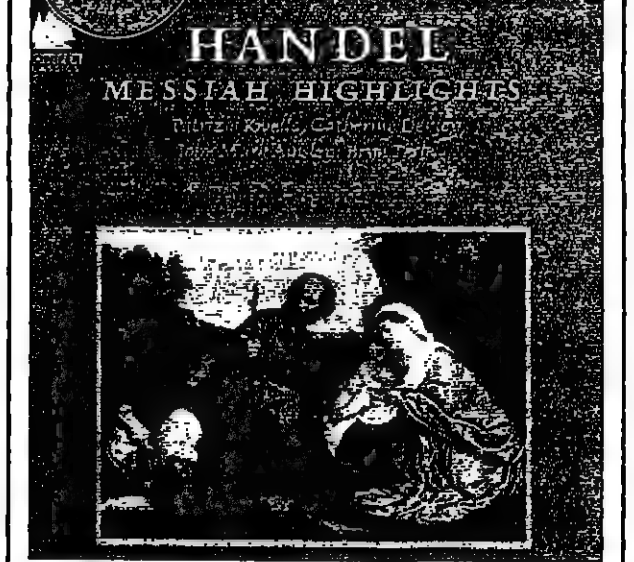
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Mayflower
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● ENGLISH National Ballet performs Ben Stevenson's lavishly high-tech and spectacularly consumed production of *The Nutcracker*. Two tickets for the price of one (normally £19.50 to £29.50). Tel 01703 711811

Beth Henley's Abundance. Tel 0181-741 2255
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● TWO tickets for the price of one (normally £7) for *Get Up and Tie your Fingers*, Ann Coburn's drama based on a tragedy that befell a Borders fishing town in 1881. Tel 01224 641122
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TRACK LISTING
1. *Sinfonia* 2. *Comfort ye* Recitative — Tenor 3. *Every valley Air* — Tenor 4. *And the glory of the Lord* Chorus 5. *Thus saith the Lord* Recitative — Bass 6. *But who may abide Air* — Alto 7. *And he shall purify* Chorus 8. *For unto us a child is born* Chorus 9. *Pastoral Symphony* 10. *There were shepherds* Recitative — Soprano 11. *Glory to God* Chorus 12. *Then shall the eyes of the blind* Recitative — Alto 13. *He shall feed his flock Air* — Alto and Soprano 14. *All we like sheep* Chorus 14. *All they that see him* Recitative — Tenor 15. *He trusted in God* Chorus 16. *Why do the nations Air* — Bass 17. *Let us break their bonds* Chorus 18. *He that dwelleth in heaven* Recitative — Tenor 19. *Thou shalt not break them Air* — Tenor 19. *Hallelujah* Chorus 20. *I know that my redeemer liveth Air* — Soprano 21. *Worthy is the lamb* — Amen Chorus

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Nations hold their breath for Europe's grand finale

Rob Hughes anticipates a night of death and glory with the last round of qualifiers

EUROPE should be burning with anticipation tonight, and with some fear and trepidation, as the remaining places for the European championship finals of 1996 are decided. England, as hosts, already know that Spain, Russia and Switzerland will join them on merit. After that, because of a complicated mathematical formula dreamt up by a Swiss professor to decide the method of qualification for teams finishing second in their group, confusion reigns.

Uefa, the European governing body, has decreed that the results gained against the bottom two teams in each group will be discarded in the final reckoning. By that criteria, we know that Germany, Scotland and Denmark have already done enough to be assured of play-

— would do everybody a favour if they could indeed dispose of Norway, the team that won the medal for boredom during the last World Cup, the team that has carried English long-ball tactics to excruciating extremes.

In the same group, the Czech Republic, at home to Luxembourg, could yet beat the two of them to the top the table.

At Parc des Princes, there is an intriguing replay of France versus Israel. This has the appearance of a no contest, but, think back to October 1993, when France had only to draw against Israel to reach the World Cup finals in the United States and, in the last minutes, failed to do so.

Second in group one behind Romania (who themselves have a tough away game in Slovakia), France need to top this group because, although unbeaten, their record against the better teams in the group is insufficient.

So, whether Cantona and Ginola? Both are spectators, if that. Aimé Jacques, the France coach who has belatedly found resilience and goalscorers within his squad, has omitted them from the game against Israel. "The team must be spared from surprises just now," Jacques said. "This is a match we have to win."

All these matches, where nervousness might get the better of competitive will, may be a distraction while England contest nothing more than home pride against Switzerland. Yet, if the search is for quality, then the group seven decider between Germany and Bulgaria might provide it.

Bulgaria have beaten Germany twice in the past 18 months, including the 2-1 World Cup victory that sent Germany home and Bulgaria to the semi-finals. Germany could afford, under the mathematical formula, to draw tonight; but Bulgaria need to win the group, and they have 700,000 reasons for doing so — the number of pounds sterling on offer for them as a team to qualify.

ing in the finals, even if they finish second in their groups. It still leaves four very decisive games to be played tonight.

In group six, as is well known, Ireland have the devil's own job attempting to qualify. They simply have to beat Portugal, a team that has come up together from schools level, brimming with technique and vitality, but more than a little suspect in temperament. However, Jack Charlton's reputation, as the Ireland manager, for winning the big ones cannot bring his players youth or good health; they will go down.

At least as big a contest takes place in Holland. Holland, lying third in group five, must also win, against Norway, to qualify and — their own talents so obvious, but their temperament so suspect



Taylor, who had seen England lose a vital World Cup qualifying match in Rotterdam, has the look of a beaten man. Photograph: Chris Smith

Public target who did the decent thing

As poor Graham. Thus passes one not easily rattled but being wrought, perplexed in the extreme. Graham Taylor, former England manager, turnip and syntactical nonpareil, has resigned again. The wanderer has left Wolverhampton.

Football gives and football taketh away, and those who live by the boot shall perish by the boot; but it is hard not to feel bad about Taylor. Another Taylor humiliation: can I not take that?

"I don't have to prove anything to anybody," he said defiantly after his first match as manager of Wolverhampton Wanderers, while the crowd sang the irrepressible truth that there was only one Graham Taylor.

Yet he did. He had to prove to the world not only that he was a half-decent manager, but also that he was a plausible human being. His career as public target had robbed him of both those things.

In truth, things were not so bad as all that at Wolver-

hampton, but the shadow of the turnip hung over him. Anything short of instant success was disaster. It is a sad way for a miracle-worker to end up.

For Taylor was seen as a miracle-worker once. He got Watford to second place in the championship and to an FA Cup final. He launched the career of John Barnes and, still more miraculously, made Luther Blissett an England player and a million-pound buy for AC Milan.

I remember watching Watford in Europe, bizarre thought, when they beat Kaiserslautern, against all the predictions of the pundits, on a night of mad all-out attack. Watford became the bumblebee of English football; every expert on aerodynamics proved that they could not fly.

It was all good fun, and Taylor was at his heart. Well, it could not happen to a more decent man, we all thought. Always amiable; always, even when philosophically at odds, helpful to us press chaps. Even then, spoken of as a future England manager.

MIDWEEK VIEW

SIMON BARNES

There was a feeling that his success at Aston Villa — second in the championship, anyway — had the kulaks of Lancaster Gate sighing in sympathy. At last they could appoint this decent and plausible man as England manager.

For, before the destruction of Taylor at any rate, there was a Lancaster Gate managerial type. A plausible person; well-spoken *ma non troppo*. Not too salt-of-the-earth either: polite, cautious, meticulous and capable of

just the right amount of deference. Not Brian Clough. Not Greenwood. Not Jack Charlton. Graham Taylor.

Alf Ramsey was the exception, of course. He had the madness, the impossible self-belief, the Nelson touch of Clough at his best — plus, when it suited him, the plausibility of Taylor.

Taylor began his period in charge with a kind of press open day. Taylor communicated a lot. Taylor communicated not wisely but too well. Rather like Raymond Wigglesworth, the England cricket manager, Taylor liked to explore ideas by talking about them in press conferences. This is all right if you win, like most other things in sport. When you lose, you are merely saving the enemy the trouble of manufacturing bullets.

Now, tabloid vilification is all very nasty, but it does not often work. Generally, the person vilified becomes an object of mass public sympathy. Taylor, though, lost this natural sympathy by one act, the most dreadful piece of

public relations that he could have come up with. He substituted Gary Lineker.

"There's only one Alan Smith," Eliot

Do we not care for that? Lineker was seen as the most decent man in the history of football — no, the world. Ramsey dropped Jimmy Greaves and won the World Cup. Taylor substituted Lineker and lost everything, including public respect.

Perhaps, though, Taylor will most certainly deny it: he lost self-respect as well; and, perhaps, it was in search of that mislaid quality that brought him back into football management at Wolverhampton. His departure is the more saddening for that.

Taylor has never been accused of handling suitcases full of used fivers; has never been caught waist-deep in chorus girls; has never peddled *Why I Hate Big Ron* stories. These people are the real turnips, a malodorous and unpalatable side dish of the game. Taylor did his best and fell short; there are, indeed, worse crimes.

Olympians press for funds from lottery

GREAT Britain's elite competitors have written to the Government asking for a total of £1 million from the National Lottery proceeds to help to prepare for the Olympic Games in Atlanta next year. Adrian Moorhouse, the 1988 Olympic breaststroke champion, said yesterday: "We are not fulfilling our potential. We want Government support."

Money from the lottery, which is distributed by the Sports Council, is designed for capital projects. However, a Government spokesman said yesterday that the Millennium Commission might consider applications for sport as part of its plans to establish a talent fund for young people.

Prost in reserve

Motor racing: Alain Prost, the former world champion, may return to the Formula One grid next season. Prost, who has agreed to do some development work for McLaren-Mercedes, could start the 1996 season if Mika Hakkinen has not recovered in time from the head injuries that he received during a crash in qualifying for the Australian Grand Prix.

Stadium deal

Rugby league: Widnes expect to be playing in a new £7 million home, which will accommodate 15,000 spectators, at Naughton Park within 18 months, after agreeing a deal with Halton Borough Council, which is paying around £300,000 for the existing stadium.

Stevens leads

Snooker: Matthew Stevens took control of the Benson and Hedges Championship final at the JP Snooker Centre, Edinburgh, yesterday when he established a 6-1 lead over Paul McPhillips in the first session of the best-of-17 frames contest. Stevens, 18, was left requiring only three of the remaining ten frames for his first title as a professional.

Brown defends

Hockey: Karen Brown, formerly a midfielder player, will play at full back for Great Britain when they take on Canada in their opening match in the Olympic qualifying tournament in Cape Town tomorrow.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

What would be your emotions as West on this hand, after the various stages of the following auction?

South deals at love all

♠ 6	♥ K J 3 2	♦ K 6 7 5	♣ K 7 4 3
S	W	N	E
1♠	Pass	3♠	All Pass

When I held the hand, my first thought over One Spade was whether to double. A close decision; at some other tables in the BBL Premier League, West did double. Having passed, I then felt that I had made the right decision when North bid Three Spades — usually, they go on to game after that sequence and, had I doubled One Spade, that would have given the declarer information on the play.

Then, when South passed Three Spades, I was back to wishing that I had acted on the first round. South is marked with a minimum hand and it is quite possible that East-West have a making contract. There is a good case for West acting at this point, by re-opening with a double, but I passed again. What would you lead?

About the only thing I did right on the hand was to lead a heart. I did that on the basis that I do not like leading singleton trumps and, as I had to lead away from a king, hearts was best as it was my strongest suit. This was the full deal:

Dealer South	Love all	IMP's
♠ K J 8 5 3	♠ A 2	
♥ 7 5	♥ Q 9 8 5 4	
♦ Q 9 4 1	♦ J 10 6	
♣ 10 2	♣ A Q 9	
♠ 6	♠ Q 10 9 7 4	
♥ K J 3 2	♥ A 10	
♦ K 8 7 5	♦ A 3	
♣ K 7 4 3	♣ J 8 6 5	

Contract: Three Spades by South. Lead: Two of Hearts.

At least a heart lead beat the contract; it was not much consolation as Four Hearts was cold for East-West. At the other table in our match, the auction was the same, but West led diamonds, her second strongest suit. This let the contract home.

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Kasparov's jackpot

Garry Kasparov, the world champion, netted a jackpot of \$80,000 (about £51,000) by winning the Paris leg of the Intel speed chess grand prix.

By defeating Vladimir Kramnik, the young Russian grandmaster, in a dramatic closing game, Kasparov secured for himself both the winner's purse from Paris of \$30,000 and an additional bonus of \$50,000 for the overall circuit winner.

Kramnik, who had acted as Kasparov's second in the recent world championship match in New York, employed a variation against Kasparov's favourite King's Indian Defence that had twice brought him victory before against the champion.

On this occasion, though, Kasparov swiftly established fluid counterplay and ultimately annihilated his young opponent with a series of hammer-blows against his king.

White: Vladimir Kramnik. Black: Garry Kasparov. Intel grand prix. Paris, November 1995.

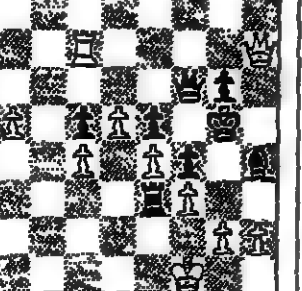
King's Indian Defence

1 Nf3	Nf6
2 Nc3	g6
3 Nc3	Bg7
4 d4	d6
5 Bc2	e5
6 Bc2	e5
7 d5	a5
8 Bg5	h6
9 Bh4	Nc6
10 0-0	Qc8

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

This position is from the game Cheron-Pollicier, Chamoniex, 1927. The black king is stuck in the centre, while White's forces are fully co-ordinated and have adopted threatening positions along the open files. How did White now win quickly?



Solution on page 44

Depleted Scotland go down to Ireland

FROM COLIN MCQUILLAN IN CAIRO

SCOTLAND'S problems multiplied in the world team squash championships in Cairo yesterday. Alan Thomson, the fourth string, was stricken with flu symptoms and unable to play, so only the top three men took on Ireland in qualifying pool C, and they went down 2-1.

Scotland travelled to Cairo without their two most highly ranked players — Peter Nicol, ranked No 3, and Martin Heath, ranked No 30 — who are in dispute with the Scottish squash authorities over payments and selection criteria, respectively. They therefore

dared hope for no more than to retain their place among the world's top 16 nations.

However, a heavy defeat at the hands of a buoyant Canadian squad on the first qualifying day made even that prospect unlikely; and the result yesterday, with only Dave Gordon preventing a more comprehensive defeat by fighting back to win against Steve Richardson 10-8, 2-9, 7-9, 9-5, 9-1, means that the Scots will be struggling to keep their aim alive when they meet Austria tomorrow.

"It's not looking too good," Barry Sutherland, the third string, admitted after he had been beaten 9-2, 10-9, 9-4 by Eoin Ryan. Alisdair Taylor

lost the first-string match conclusively to Derek Ryan 9-1, 9-1.

Ireland meet Canada tomorrow in the crunch match of the group for a place in the

top eight play-offs, while England face Pakistan, the No 2 seeds, in a match that will almost certainly determine the shape of the semi-finals on Friday.

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16/1	2-1

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MEMBER 15 1995

Clough is ready to take over at Molineux

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

SOUTH AFRICA

If that was to be expected, the preference on the right wing for Jacques Olivier, ahead of James Small, was not. Small played in the victory over Italy in Rome on Sunday and he is the only change from that XV and from the back division that played against New Zealand in the World Cup final.

Laubscher enjoyed a successful tour of Scotland and Wales last year, while van der Linde, who made his international debut in Rome at the age of 25, rose to prominence during his province's run in the Currie Cup.



a more dangerous combination than they proved in South Africa during the summer, though cynics may recall other times when opponents — notably David Campese, of Australia — have tried to nudge England towards a style of play with which they were less than familiar.

open game and they have very talented players with which to do that," Pienaar said. "You can't compare the team with that which played in the World Cup. They are playing in their own conditions, not ours, and they will want to show the rest of the world that their heavy defeat by New Zealand in the semi-final was a one-off."

FROM ALIX RAMSAY
BOSTON

She opted to stay back in the first set with reasonable success and, by the second, was becoming a little more adventurous. By then, though, the diminutive Japanese baseline specialist was into her stride and she went through 5-7, 6-3

FROM STUART JONES
TENNIS CORRESPONDENT
IN FRANKFURT

Sampras, the champion in 1991 and last year as well as being the runner-up in 1993, and Becker need only one more win to be assured of a place in the semi-finals. The matter will not remain complicated for long. They meet each

Optimism high over stadium

of the city alive, a belief based on sound commercial reasoning — rugby brings more than £6 million into city shops and hotels on match weekends.

"Nothing else before the commission comes close to matching the combination of sporting profile and a much-needed facility," Vernon Pugh, the WRU chairman, said, referring to Wales's hosting of the premier international sporting event of 1999, rugby union's World Cup, which will close just two months before the new millennium begins.

[illegible]


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WORD-TO-PHON

Answers from page 43

WOGDON
(a) An eponym of Robert Wogdon (fl. 1776-1800), a noted gurnsmith, used absolutely to designate a duelling pistol made by him.

THETFORD
(a) The name of a town in Norfolk used attributively and as a toponym to designate Saxon-Norman pottery of a type made there.

SHIRLEY
(a) The name of a district near Croydon, Surrey, used attributively and as a toponym to designate an annual poppy bearing single or double flowers, usually red, pink or white, and belonging to a variety of *Papaver rhoeas*.

SPEECHESANG
(a) A style of dramatic vocalisation intermediate between speech and song, from the German, literally "speech song".

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1. Nc1? Nxc7; 2. Rxe7; Kxe7; 3. Qf6+ Ke8 and now White has the choice of three mating moves: 4. Bx7; 4. Rf8 and 4. Qf8.

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TODAY'S FIXTURES

Nick-of-7.30 unless stated	
FOOTBALL	
International match England vs Switzerland (at Wembley, 8.0)	
European championship Qualifying group six Northern Ireland vs Austria (Windsor Park, 8.0) Portugal vs Ireland (Lisbon, 8.0)	
Qualifying group seven Albania vs Wales (Fife, 1.0) Qualifying group eight Scotland vs Stn. Marin (Hampden Park, 8.0)	
Angle-Irish Cup Group A Aberdeen v Birmingham (2.0)	
BEAZER HOUNDS LEAGUE: Premier division: VS Ruxley v Rushden & Diamonds; Second division: Farnham v Newport-King; Yale v Cinderford; Midlands division: Dudley Town v Leicester United.	
AVON INSURANCE COMBINATIONS First division: Oxford Utd v Luton; Southampton v Ipswich (at Mansfield); Wimbledon v Bournemouth; Maidenhead & Gillingham AFC v B'ham (at Ash); Swarley v Bournemouth (2.0).	
LEAGUE OF WALES CUP: Group one: Llanfair Tal-y-llyn v Rhyl; Group two: Bangor City v Pen-y-fan; Group three: Llangefelli v Llanidloes; Group four: Llanfyllter v Llanwrda; Group five: Llanfair Caerebbio v Llanfair-nant-y-gwladys; Group six: Llanfair-nant-y-gwladys v Llanfair-nant-y-gwladys; Group seven: Llanfair-nant-y-gwladys v Llanfair-nant-y-gwladys; Group eight: Llanfair-nant-y-gwladys v Llanfair-nant-y-gwladys; Group nine: Llanfair-nant-y-gwladys v Llanfair-nant-y-gwladys; Group ten: Llanfair-nant-y-gwladys v Llanfair-nant-y-gwladys; Group eleven: Llanfair-nant-y-gwladys v Llanfair-nant-y-gwladys; Group twelve: Llanfair-nant-y-gwladys v Llanfair-nant-y-gwladys; Group thirteen: Llanfair-nant-y-gwladys v Llanfair-nant-y-gwladys; Group fourteen: Llanfair-nant-y-gwladys v Llanfair-nant-y-gwladys; Group fifteen: Llanfair-nant-y-gwladys v Llanfair-nant-y-gwladys; Group sixteen: Llanfair-nant-y-gwladys v Llanfair-nant-y-gwladys; Group seventeen: Llanfair-nant-y-gwladys v Llanfair-nant-y-gwladys; 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RUGBY UNION

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

International matches

England Under-21 v Ireland Under-21
Rotherham, 7.00

C&I ASSURANCE UNDER-19 COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP: Midlands Pool starts

Sharncliffe Stars v Leicestershire (at Bunton)

Leicestershire v Gloucestershire (at Worcester)

Hampshire United Services, Portsmouth.

TEMPERLEY COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP:

Gloucestershire v Warwickshire (at Stratford)

Surrey v Suffolk (at Bromwood)

CLUB MATCHES: Bridgwater v Plymouth: Coventry v Northampton, High Wycombe v Wokingham, High Wycombe v Major Saunders 7.00 (3.0); Portlough v Abertillery (3.0)

RUGBY LEAGUE

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

Scottish Championship

Glasgow v Wigan

London Broncos v Halifax
(at Harefield)

Warrington v Leeds

First division

Darbyshire v Featherstone

Hull v Batley (8.0)

Preston v Huddersfield

Workington v Widnes

Second division

Barnsley v Salford

Doncaster v Doncaster

Highgateley v Carlisle

Loughborough v Hull KR

OTHER SPORTS

the Holy Lands

The Times and *The Sunday Times* are offering readers the exclusive chance to win one of 80 holidays for two, plus 10 per cent discounts, to a range of destinations throughout the world.

Today's prize is an 11-day cruise, worth £3,300, to the Holy Lands, the cradle of some of the world's greatest religious faiths, Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

It begins with an excursion to the Sea of Galilee, Capernaum, Tabgha and Tiberias. Then you will visit Cairo to see the Pyramids and Sphinx. From Alexandria there will be an optional visit to El Alamein, scene of one of the greatest battles of the Second World War.

Next is Umassol and a visit to Curium and Kokossi, then to Syria where you will go to Aqunata and Saladin's Castle. Also on the itinerary are Aleppo, the magnificent theatre at Appandos, Kusadasi and Ephesus.

DATE OF DEPARTURE: November 4-14, 1996. Prices from £1,503, down from £1,670 with our exclusive 10 per cent discount, include everything: flights, meals, excursions, even tips.

THE TIMES
Around
the World
in 80 Days
£20,000
TOKEN 38

HOW TO WIN

To win today's holiday answer the questions below and place our competition hotline: 0891 40 50 34 open until midnight tonight.

The winner will be chosen at random from all correct entries received. Normal Times Newspapers competition rules apply.

1. Where, on the Holy Lands itinerary, did a famous Second World War battle take place?

Calls are charged at 30p per minute cheap rate and 40p at all other times.

SWAN HELLENIC



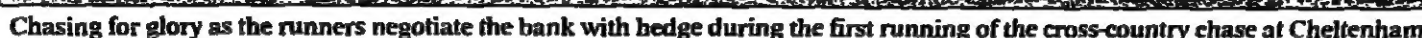
Swan Hellenic offers readers 10% discount on today's cruise and all the cruises featured this week. Their price covers everything, even tips.

For a brochure, please call:

01369 707711

TOMORROW: WIN A CRUISE TO THE DANUBE

Perhaps the most significant contributory factor has its roots in the demoralising news to emerge from Ireland yesterday. Jim Dreaper reported that Harcon, his exciting young chaser, has succumbed to a tendon injury and will be out of training for at least 12 months. An assessment of the injured limb will be carried out in December next year, although Dreaper suggested the chestnut could be sidelined until the autumn of 1997 at least.



point of any race? Racing is a form of entertainment for those who enjoy the spectacle and betting on its outcome. We are an entertainment industry and that is what Sunday's innovative venture was all about.

Ask any Irishman if the bank race at Punchestown should be abolished and he would question your sanity. It is part of Irish tradition. Perhaps the real problem here is tradition or, in this case, a lack of it.

14 PARTY BEACHON 232C J. Jones 4-11-10
 15 PRIDE OF WINNEPEG 3C Small 4-11-10
 16 QUINAGE 14 Bailey 4-11-10
 16 WUP SEYMOUR LADIES 234D A. Jones 4-11-10
 17 22 SUPREME 239 39 Mrs H. Hunter 4-11-10
 5-2 September Lady, 31 Quale HM 7-1 Martens's Folk, 4-1 Scotch Blad 29-1
 Gaining 12-1 Come On Penny 14-1 Indian Crown 16-1 Jester.

☐ Richard Dunwoody rode a 747-1 four-time
 at Niagara. Abbot yesterday, winning, and

COURSE SPECIALISTS							
TRAINERS	Wine	Plums	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Routes	%
Lady Haynes	3	7	42.9	F Hale	6	27	22.2
W. H. Gifford	42	42.8		R G. Derrity	22	36	27.8
F. Acker	5	15	33.3	A. A. Fitzgibbon	12	56	21.4
W. H. Gifford	17	64	26.6	J. Osborne	24	123	19.5
F. Fowler	25	0		Peter Jackson	5	5	18.9
D. Sherrard	9	43	20.9	G. McQuinn	10	50	16.9

JOCKEYS: A P McCoy, 10 winners from 37 rides, 27.1% from 43, 18.6%; P McLaughlin, 5 from 34, 14.7%; S. 36, 13.9%; B Clifford, 4 from 31, 12.9%; R Greene, 4

England unlikely to make room for Malcolm

FROM ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT
IN JOHANNESBURG

DEVON MALCOLM, to all South Africans the most popular and symbolic of English cricketers, is unlikely to make the team for the first Test, that starts tomorrow, after the tour management's initial judgment that the Centurion Park pitch will assist spin.

Although Raymond Illingworth, the team manager, will not announce the final England XI until tomorrow morning, there were strong indications yesterday that his namesake, Richard, the left-arm spinner, will feature in a four-man attack completed by Dominic Cork, Darren Gough and Angus Fraser.

Many people here will be astonished if Malcolm is omitted, such was

the impact of his nine for 57 at the Oval when last the teams met, in August 1994, but unless psychology overcomes pragmatism — an improbability with Illingworth in charge — the fastest and most erratic of England's bowlers will not be risked. His bowling thus far on tour has largely been innocuous and, unless his mood and rhythm were rapidly transformed, he would be a potential liability in a limited, three-man seam attack.

Technically, Illingworth is the sole selector on this tour and, although he will consider any strong views expressed by Michael Atherton, the captain, there is little possibility of a split on this issue. Fraser, back to health yesterday after suffering after-effects from some dehydrating days in Kimberley, is essential as the stabiliser around whom the swing

and youthful aggression of Cork and Gough will operate.

Any prospect of England fielding four seam bowlers can be ruled out. The pitch is patchy, clumps of grass in the middle offset by bare areas at the ends, and, as it is baked by the fierce sun, it should become more

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accommodating to spin. "I certainly think it will turn as the match goes on," the England manager said. "It is not much different from the rest of the square and the spinners have been taking plenty of wickets here."

Atherton's first impression was that he "would want to bat first", a view shared by Illingworth despite his caveat: "The game could be

decided in the first few hours. If we bat first against their pace bowlers, we must bat far better than we did in Kimberley at the weekend." Concern over the top-order batting will dispel the notion of playing five specialist bowlers with Jack Russell, the wicketkeeper, batting at No 6.

South Africa's four fast bowlers, all of whom underwent treatment for minor strains at the weekend, have now been passed fit, but one of them could yet miss out if the pitch persuades them towards a spin option. Yesterday morning, the home team exercised only their vocal chords as they recorded an anthem, part of a publicity campaign for the series. Words and music bear a strange resemblance to the old 10cc song, *Dreadlock Holiday*.

Whether or not the players' singing attracts patrons, the South African

authorities have made a curious decision in staging the first game of this reunion series at Centurion Park. It is an anonymous area, just off the motorway between Johannesburg and Pretoria, and it will be the first Test played on the ground. It is attractive, and has one of the most pristine fielding surfaces I have seen, but the crowds here may be poor compared with subsequent matches.

England are commuting daily from their luxury hotel in Sandton, one of the better areas of Johannesburg, where opulent residences are guarded from the city's lawlessness by high walls, barbed wire and alarm systems, and where, only last week, a sighting of Lord Lucan was reported. Unless there is a late change of heart, Devon Malcolm may be about to make a similar disappearance from public life.

Looking into the volcano

Points of Departure, Radio 4, 7.20pm.

Robert Fisk, formerly of *The Times*, does not like the label "war reporter", though that is what he has been. Nor does he like being called "war correspondent", though that is how he is best known by most of his admirers. I told him once that I always thought of him as a chronicler of conflict; that, too, did not please him. Then, how does he see himself? As a volcanologist, forever peering over the volcano's edge to see the smoke. His present posting is in the Middle East, over the years the dispatch point for some of his most vivid reporting. In *Points of Departure*, Fisk plays back and comments on tape recordings of the moments when, he says, he touched history and the dark heart of man.

The Colour Norman, Radio 4, 2.00pm.

This comedy is a joint effort by Jerome Vincent and Stephen Dimsdale. I believe the latter's comedy *Amorak of Fire* was rated highly by Radio 4 listeners. *The Colour Norman* is a distant cousin of an old balding comedy in which Alec Guinness was sucked into a commercial nightmare when he invented an imperishable white cloth. In the Dimsdale-Vincent comedy, young Norman from Cop North (Richard Pearce) discovers a new primary colour, which makes him the target for everybody including (most improbably) M15. The play is too frenetic for me, with too many characters, but the final line is an ironical treat.

Peter Davall

Wanderers light up progressive path

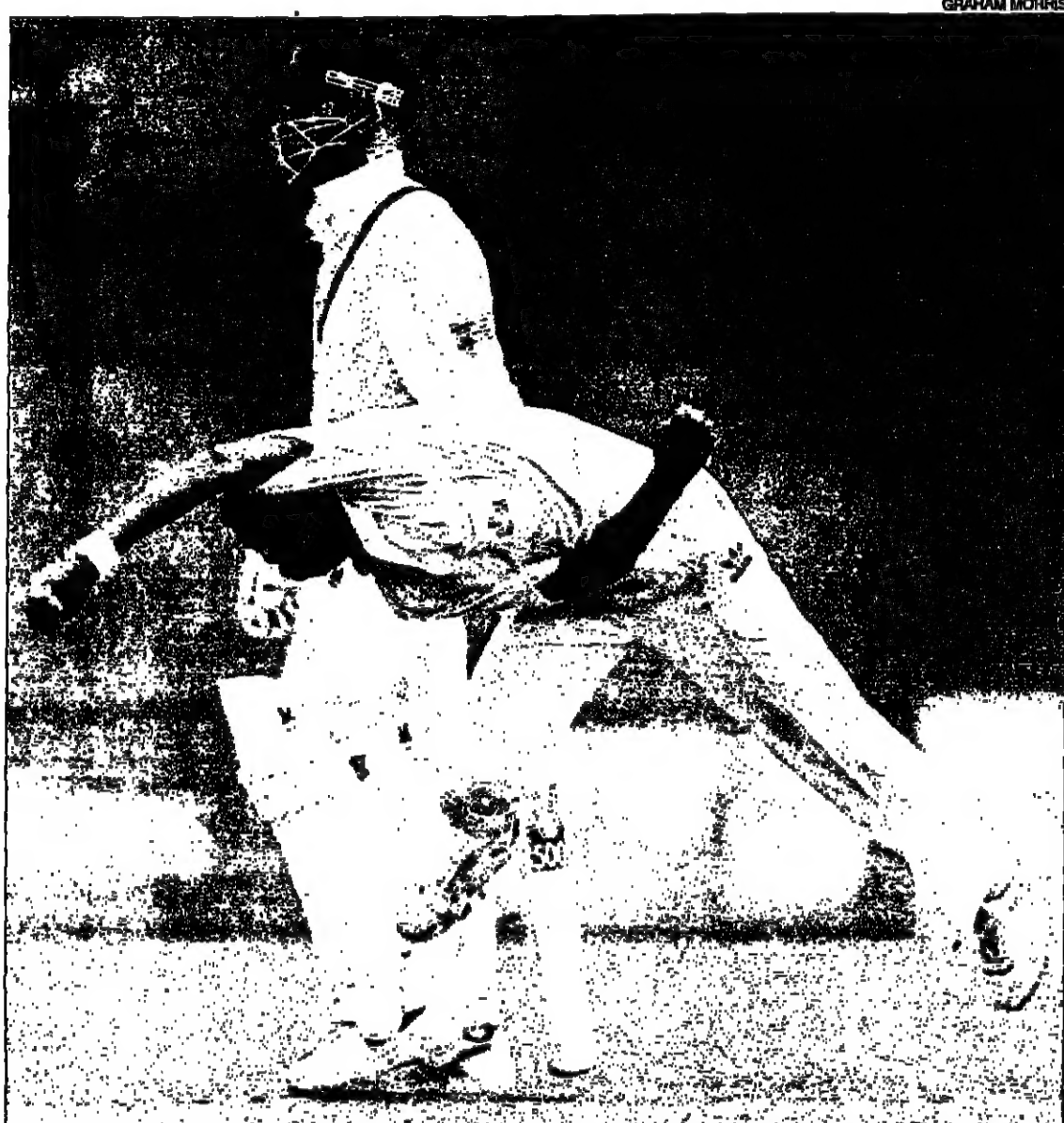
David Miller watches a cricketing revolution in full swing at a former bastion of exclusivity

Only a few years ago, membership of the Wanderers Cricket Club in Johannesburg was impenetrably exclusive, even for some whites, never mind those on the wrong side of the colour tracks. Nowhere today better illustrates the South African sporting evolution that is lowering the old divisive walls of social apartheid. I spent the past weekend watching some of the action at five of the eight matches in which Wanderers teams were involved at different levels. This is the club, founded in 1898, that as much represents the traditional soul of the South African game as does MCC in England. It will therefore astonish, and delight, the sceptics to know that two of those eight teams are captained by black players, Godfrey Maredi and Harry Maluleke; and that, of the 88 players on tour over the weekend, no less than 23 were non-whites from the United Cricket Board's (UCB) thriving development programme.

On the eve of the first home Test against England for 31 years, that starts at Centurion Park, Verwoerdburg, tomorrow, the non-whites are genuinely lapping at the fringes of South Africa's Test team, and not just 18-year-old Paul Adams, with his nine for 181 in the defeat of England by South Africa A at Kimberley.

Across the road from the tranquil Wanderers club in its comfy suburban surroundings, with its four tranquil oval grounds — costing a small fortune in annual maintenance — the 19-year-old Makhaya Ntini was busy for Border in their Castle Cup match against Transvaal, confirming his potential to become the first black pace bowler for his country. He had to labour hard for his two for 111 as Transvaal knocked out 431 and subsequently forced Border to follow on.

Those giving substance to the revolution, begun under the inspired leadership of Ali Bacher, the executive director of the UCB, are relative-



Ntini, having broken into the Border side, must refine his raw power to advance to Test cricket

ly unsung lieutenants such as Ray Wentzel, the Wanderers chairman. The change is not happening just on the field, but within the social fabric of the game.

Under Wentzel's guidance, Wanderers have adopted players from the Alexandra township club, and included some of them, such as Maredi, on selection and finance

committees, in order to learn the running of club affairs. Wanderers expanded their fixture list to accommodate the extra players.

Coaching is in the hands of Peter Stringer, formerly of Yorkshire and Leicestershire. He helps develop the young players to the point where many of them then leave to return to their own regional clubs — a cycle of

valuable social expansion. Some have undergone sports psychology under Dr Andre Roux, in order to assist their self-esteem. It is not uncommon for young black players to cry off from a match, worried that they may fall short of expectation alongside more confident, adjusted whites. Not so Mpho Sekoto. While I was watching Maredi's fifth team

batting against Southern Suburbs, Sekoto arrived as a late deputy — a 13-year-old from Alexandra who had made 111 not out the previous day, and now could not wait to scramble into his pads and get out there to face an attack of grown men.

Wentzel leads from the front. From the Wanderers' ancient oval, having collected trays of salad lunches in his minibus, we set off for the squalor of Alexandra; across the most notorious set of traffic lights in Johannesburg, where hijacks at gunpoint are a constant threat, past the squatter camps to the splendid isolation of the Alexandra Oval, donated by the British Government, where the eighth team, captained by Maluleke, was playing against the Indians of Palm Ridge. Some white parents are understandably anxious about their children playing in such fixtures. "You take a few risks," Wentzel said, slipping the clutch to stay in gear at red lights, ready for anything.

Krish Mackerdij, the UCB chairman, was formerly chairman of the (Coloured) South African Cricket Board during the divided era.

"Some are surprised by the extent of what has happened," he said. "We were told the objectives were impossible, but we said we'd prove it. In the old days, I had no chance, for instance, of being a member of the Wanderers, but don't call it a miracle. I've always had faith in people. Now we're together, it's taking off... We're building proper social foundations, not just bringing people in on the third floor."

The Castle Cup match at the weekend was Ntini's second for the Border first team. Stephen Jones, their coach, is anxious that he should not be rushed; that his raw power should have time to be refined. Ntini, who comes from the same township village near East London as Steve Tshwete, the Minister of Sport, is unabashed by his progress from a 15-year-old playing spontaneously with a tennis ball in the streets.

"I know everyone's looking at me, expecting things, but I need a better rhythm in my run up," he said, knowing that he needs to straighten his action to develop more swing, but already mature enough to recognise that time is on his side.

Irani puts case for promotion

FROM PAT GIBSON
IN LAHORE

JOHN EMBUREY sounded almost apologetic. "I have not really got stuck into the players yet, because I have had no reason to," the manager of the England A team said yesterday after watching his young charges make it five wins in five games on their tour of Pakistan by beating a Pakistani Cricket Board XI by eight wickets here.

Emburey knows that his job is likely to get a lot more difficult as from Friday, when the first of three five-day international matches against Pakistan A begins in Multan.

Richard Stemp and Ian Salisbury, the England A spinners, combined to shoot out the home side for 153, once the impressive Dean Headley had made the initial breach. Needing 100 to win, Nasser Hussain's side romped home before tea with Ronnie Irani, the Essex all-rounder, ending unbeaten on 53. Irani's innings improved his chance of being picked to fill the No 5 position against Pakistan A, especially as Jason Pooley, of Middlesex, failed for the second time in the match.

Stemp took three for 34 in ten overs during the morning, after the home side had resumed at 67 for four, and finished with four for 46, while Salisbury, the Sussex leg spinner, ended with figures of three for 31.

Yet it was Headley whom Emburey picked as the outstanding bowler of the match. "He maintained the right length throughout, got a little bit of movement with the new ball and then achieved some reverse swing later on," he said.



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RADIO 4

8.55am Shipping Forecast 6.00 News Briefing 6.10 Farming Today 8.25 Prayer for the Day, with the Rev John Ball 8.30 Today and 7.20, 7.25, 8.00, 8.30 News 7.25, 8.25 sport 7.45 Thought for the Day, with Roy Jenkins 8.40 Short Story: The Pillow Goose, Tessa Worsley reads Jane Gardam's story (r) 8.58 Weather 9.00 News 9.05 Midweek, with Times columnist Libby Purves and birthday guest Chantrel Heston 10.00-10.30 News: Just a Part of the Furniture (FM only). The Manlypiece, Clare Jenkins looks at what furniture can reveal about people's lives (R) 10.00 Daily Services (LW only) 10.15 This Scepter'd Isle (LW only). The Execution of Charles I 10.30 Woman's Hour, introduced by Jenni Murray. Serial: The Mistress Mallett by E.H. Benson (1/12) 11.30 Gardeners' Question Time. Questions from members of the Ash and District Horticultural Society, Kent (r) 12.00 News: You and Yours, with Chris Ciol 12.25pm God's Own County A humorous look at Yorkshire (1/3) (r) 12.55 Weather 1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke 1.40 The Archers (r) 1.55 Shipping Forecast 2.00 News: New Comedies on 4: The Colour Norman. See Choice 2.45 Treasure Islands: Michael Rosen talks to Melvin Burgess about his novels for teenagers

RADIO 3

8.00am On Air, Fayfax (Miss Lecum principal); Mozart (Horn Concerto in E flat); Britten (Four Sea Interludes, Peter Grimes); Lutoslawski, an Harvey (Variations on a Theme of Paganini); Verdi (Otello) 9.00 Morning Collection with Paul Gambaccini. Dvorak (Symphony No 2 in B flat) 10.00 Music Encounters. Purcell, an Britten (It music be the food of love); Strauss (Sinfonietta); Poulenc (Solitudes de Noces); Reger (Sonata in D, Op 77a); Liszt (Orpheus); 11.11 Artist of the Week: Leonid (Violent oneness); 11.21 Haydn (Symphony No 16 in B flat); Schubert (Fantasy in C, Wanderer) 12.00 Jazz Weekly Composers of the Week: Ellington, Evans and Wheeler. Ian Carr looks at music composed by Gil Evans for the trumpeter Miles Davis 1.00pm Concert Hall, Gorgy Paul, violin; Ian Brown, piano. Schumann (Sonata in A minor, Op 105); Lutoslawski (Sinfonietta); Prokofiev (Sonata No 1 in F minor, Op 80) 2.00 Schools: Together 2.20 Time and Tune 2.40 Drama Workshop 3.00 Midweek Choice. Including Rubinstein (Nocturne Op 11 No 2); Beethoven (Choral Fantasy, Op 80) 4.00 Choral Evening, from Rochester Cathedral 5.00 The Music Machine in New England, Tommy Pearson and students from Coventry High School, Connecticut, are joined by the composer 5.55am Shipping Forecast 6.00 News Briefing 6.10 Farming Today 8.25 Prayer for the Day, with the Rev John Ball 8.30 Today and 7.20, 7.25, 8.00, 8.30 News 7.25, 8.25 sport 7.45 Thought for the Day, with Roy Jenkins 8.40 Short Story: The Pillow Goose, Tessa Worsley reads Jane Gardam's story (r) 8.58 Weather 9.00 News 9.05 Midweek, with Times columnist Libby Purves and birthday guest Chantrel Heston 10.00-10.30 News: Just a Part of the Furniture (FM only). The Manlypiece, Clare Jenkins looks at what furniture can reveal about people's lives (R) 10.00 Daily Services (LW only) 10.15 This Scepter'd Isle (LW only). The Execution of Charles I 10.30 Woman's Hour, introduced by Jenni Murray. Serial: The Mistress Mallett by E.H. Benson (1/12) 11.30 Gardeners' Question Time. Questions from members of the Ash and District Horticultural Society, Kent (r) 12.00 News: You and Yours, with Chris Ciol 12.25pm God's Own County A humorous look at Yorkshire (1/3) (r) 12.55 Weather 1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke 1.40 The Archers (r) 1.55 Shipping Forecast 2.00 News: New Comedies on 4: The Colour Norman. See Choice 2.45 Treasure Islands: Michael Rosen talks to Melvin Burgess about his novels for teenagers

RADIO 1

FM Stereo. 6.00am Celine Dion 6.30 Chris Evans 6.50 Simon Mayo 12.00 Lesa (Antony, Inc) at 12.30-12.45 Newsbeat and at 1.15 The Net 2.00pm Nelly Campbell 4.00 Mark Goodier, Inc at 4.30-5.45 Newsbeat and at 6.15 The Net 7.00 Evening Session. Scarle in session 8.00 Lee and Henry 10.00 Mark Radcliffe 10.00 Wendy Lloyd, including at 12.15am The Net

RADIO 2

FM Stereo. 6.00am Martin Kellner 7.30 Sarah Kennedy 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Anne Robinson 2.00pm Debbie Throver 3.00 Ed Stewart 5.00 John Dunn 7.00 Jim Lloyd, with Rick on 2 8.50 Fisher's Folk Steps 8.30 Luke Skywalker's Jewish Music 9.00 Macgregor's Horizons (1/7) 9.30 Nigel Ogden 10.30 The Jamesons 12.05am Steve Madden 3.00 Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports, Inc at 5.45 Wake Up to Money 6.00 The Breakfast Programme 8.35 The Magazine, Inc at 10.35 EuroNews, Inc at 11.00 News: National History 11.15 The State Opening of Parliament 12.00 Midday with Mel, Inc at 12.34pm Moneycheck, Inc at 1.15 Entertainment News 2.05 Russia on Five 4.40am John Inverdale National Radio 5 Extra 7.20 Trevor Brook's Football Night 10.05 News Talk, with Jenny 11.00 Night Vibe, Inc at 11.15 The Football World Tonight 12.05am After Hours 2.05 Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00am Sandy Watt 7.00 Simon Bates 10.00 Jonathan King 12.00 Tommy Boyd 2.00pm Anna Rieburn 4.00 Scott Chisham and Lowri Turner 7.00 Sean Ego 8.00 Moe 10.00 James Whitley 1.00-6.00am Ian Collins

WORLD SERVICE

All times in GMT. 6.00am Newsday 6.30 News Today 6.50 Newsday 6.50 Europe Today 7.00 News 7.15 On the Shelf: The Endless Knot 7.30 Discovery 8.00 News 8.10 Words of Faith 8.15 News: Around the Fire 8.45 The Secret Life of a Song 9.00 News in German 9.15 Andy Kershaw 9.45 Sport 10.00 Newsday 10.30 BBC English 10.45 On the Shelf: The Endless Knot 11.00 Newsday 11.30 Marjkan 12.00 News 12.05pm Business 12.15 Britain 12.30 Composer of the Month 1.00 Newsday 3.00 News in German 3.15 The Greenfield Collection 4.00 News 4.15 World Today 4.30 News in German 5.00 Europe Today 5.30 Business 5.45 Sports 6.00 Newsday 6.30 News in German 7.00 News 7.01 Outlook 7.25 Words of Faith 7.30 Multitrack X-Press 8.00 Newsday 8.30 News 8.55 Business 9.15 Britain Today 9.30 Purcell's London 10.00 Newsday 10.30 The World Today 10.45 Sport 11.00 News 11.05am Pop Short 11.15 Sport 11.45 Front: Our Own Correspondents: Mid-night Newsday 12.30am The Secret Life of a Song 12.45 Britain 1.00 News 1.10 Press Review 1.15 News Kise 1.35 Portrait of the Artist 1.45 Country 2.00 Newsday 2.30 Sport 3.00 News 3.15 Sport 3.30 Assignment 4.00 Newsday 4.30 Europe

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths 6.00 Nick Bailey 9.00 Harry Kelly 10.00 Susan Simons 12.00 Antonio 3.00 Jamie Crook 5.00 Newsday 6.30 Sports 6.00 Evening Concert 10.00 Michael Mappin 1.00am Sally Peterson

VIRGIN RADIO

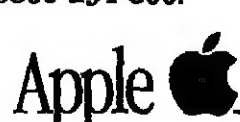
6.00am Russ 'n' Jane 9.00 Richard Simons 12.00 Graham Dene 4.00pm Nicky Home 7.30 Paul Cayle 10.00 Mark Forrest 2.00-4.00am Robin Banks

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.8-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.8. LW 198. MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 653.939. WORLD SERVICE. MW 848. LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100.2. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8. MW 1197. 1215. TALK RADIO. MW 1053. 1088. Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Gillian Macey, Rosemary Smith and Susan Thomson

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dangerous. Otherwise, the programme held our hands through some pretty simple physics lessons about aerodynamics, and contained lots of terrifying footage of the construction of the Empire State Building — men tramping along scaffolding against a pale abyss. Personally, I wish it had made more allowances for those viewers who get vertigo whenever they encounter a grille in the pavement.

The Limit interviewed people who work in the Sears Tower. On windy days, they said, the windows are sucked in and out, doors open and close, light fittings sway. Walking down a corridor, you lurch against the wall. "The water moves in the toilets," said one man, biding his lip. Ironically, a tall building is not the best place to be in an earthquake, but it's not a proposition I would ever test, especially if a grille in the pavement blocked my path to the door.

Lynne
Truss

windy days, they said, the windows are sucked in and out, doors open and close, light fittings sway. Walking down a corridor, you lurch against the wall. "The water moves in the toilets," said one man, biting his lip. Ironically, a tall building is the best place to be in an earthquake, but it's not a proposition I would ever test, especially if a grille in the pavement blocked my path to the door.

CHANNEL 4

6.35pm **Healthcliff** Cartoon series (r) (8611680)
7.00 **The Big Breakfast** (21757)
9.00 **Evening Shade** (r) (s) (45028)
9.30 **Schools** Good Health (4768573) 9.45 **Book** (4761028) 10.00 **Stage Two Science** (3643) 10.15 **Making Sense of Science** (791778) 11.00 **World** (1534925) 10.55 **Film and V** **Showcase** (5531252) 11.07 **Schools at** (7285979) 11.15 **The Mix** (6092950) 11.30 **R** **Tat-Tat** (4007405) 11.45 **First Edition** (4095660)
12.00 **House To House** Political magazine (52592)
12.30pm **Sesame Street**. The guest is Marilyn H (72775) 1.30 **Ltr Off** (r) (s) (84689)
2.00 **Australia Wild** (s) (4950)
2.30 **Mingo's Private War** Cartoon (6852009)
2.40 **FILM: Challenger** (1990) starring Barry Bost and Karen Allen. The lives of the crew of the shuttle Challenger in the months before its launch. Concludes next week. Directed by Glenn Jo (7441650)
4.00 **Think Tank**. Quiz (Telex) (s) (912)
4.30 **Fifteen To One** (Telex) (s) (150)
5.00 **Ricki Lake**. Former lovers reveal the truth be their break-up (Telex) (s) (6445919)
5.45 **Terreys and Munro Buchstans** (968757)
6.00 **My So-Called Life**. American comedy dr about growing up (Telex) (s) (60009)
7.00 **Channel 4 News** (Telex) (452863)
7.55 **Four Fingers and a Thumb** A week-long s about the importance of British Sign Language (78721)
8.00 **Telex**. More case studies from the



Hugh Grant with Andie MacDowell (9.00pm)

Hugh Grant with Annie MacDowell (6.00pm)

9.00 Film: Four Weddings and a Funeral (1) Starring Hugh Grant and Annie MacDowell. Smart but romantic comedy, written by Richard Curtis, directed by Mike Newell. (Telexed) (S) (904107)

11.15 Rory Bremner — Who Else? (1) (S) (637080)

11.55 Moviewatch (1) (Telexed) (S) (350689)

12.30am Four Fingers and a Thumb (1) (S) (922233)

12.35-4.35 The Shooting Gallery: Short film shows beginning with Strays (1386574) 1.05 S Kerosene (S) (9304974) 1.35 Fever (1) (82512)

2.00 Hineke Goes On a Picnic and Sings Another Obelisk. A supernatural tale, written by New Zealand winner of the Booker Prize, Ken Hush (1783542) 2.30 Animal (989999) 3.35 Love (13830610) 2.50 Off Key Love, Ltd, desire a seduction between a concert pianist and a photographer (5911974)

3.15 Electrophile (1) (15690158) 3.30 Lapin. Two young girls danger in the streets of a Provincial city (17835429) 3.45 Cover in a Car (1) (1754047)

4.00 Grey (13797280). Ends at 4.35.

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No place for Platt as England seek inspiration to beat Switzerland

Venables relies on Gascoigne

By ROB HUGHES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

THE fortunes, or misfortunes, of Terry Venables, Paul Gascoigne and English football appear inextricably linked. The England coach believes that there is a conspiracy afoot that keeps dragging him through the courts. Yesterday, however, he unhesitatingly selected Gascoigne, who was branded "a thug" by a Scottish FA official after head-butting and elbowing incidents last Saturday, for the international at Wembley against Switzerland tonight.

Gascoigne is to be the core of any inspiration in this England side. He replaces Dennis Wise, who is dropped, while Teddy Sheringham comes in for the injured Nick Barmby. Otherwise, the coach has endorsed his congratulations to the team that drew 0-0 with Norway a month ago.

There is no right winger, no Stone or Sinclair, there are no places for Ferdinand, Beardsley or Howey, who put the

Scots experiment 42
Final equation 43
Taylor's farewell 43

class into Newcastle United, and there is no recall yet for Platt, the captain, or Le Saux, though Venables was at great pains yesterday to explain that they were in the squad despite injuries which have consigned them to a solitary game over the past weeks; they are coveted players whom he feels should be kept on board.

The side that he does select relies heavily on the volatile Gascoigne. A couple of weeks ago, surprisingly to all those who know how big matches can lift him, the Rangers player could not raise the training-ground tempo by which Juventus dominated his Scottish team. Then, on Saturday, released as no other player in the squad would be to fly up to Glasgow and play for Rangers after training with England in the morning, he performed against Aberdeen in a manner that is now under police investigation.

Venables excused the recurrent use of elbows as part of



Gascoigne was pronounced fit and ready in training yesterday to help England to victory over Switzerland at Wembley tonight

the player's natural "screening" equipment. Gascoigne, in an outpouring of heart and mind, admitted that he has taken on too much, that both his mental and physical state last Saturday worried him.

So, the coach has tailored training, used what he describes as "spurts", and, in his eyes, "Gazza" is fine, he's looking sharp.

Venables believes that the team that he has put together for tonight has balance. He

acknowledges that Ferdinand has done well — "but I can't play everybody. Les will get his chance, he's doing very well, but so are Teddy [Sheringham], so is Shearer."

Sheringham will play a support role for Alan Shearer and will try to improve on the fact that, between them, they have scored one goal — by Sheringham — for England in the past year.

The role of McManaman is clear in Venables's mind. To some, this roving, scampering Liverpool player seems stapled to the left touch line when selected for the nation, but he is not, apparently, by order, and the use of one winger instead of two is explained by Venables as an experiment to see if this persuades the front player and the support player to remain closer.

Against this, against a team that at least has the virtue of continuity, come the Swiss. Roy Hodgson, their coach, is the son of a Croydon bus

driver, exiled in Sweden, then Switzerland and now Italy for the past 20 years. When Hodgson speaks of the thrills of his achievements, he delights in having taken a team to the Bernabeu in Spain, to the San Siro in Milan, and now to Wembley.

Rather, though, than revel in the joys of sport, rather than say the thing that might attract more than a quarter of Wembley's capacity tonight, Hodgson's manager-speak

runs like this: "I want all the things that football coaches say but mass media people don't want to hear... to stop the opponents playing, to get the ball out wide..."

Hodgson revisits England as an organiser of repute. He did not get invited to divide his life between Zurich and Internazionale, in Milan, without proving that he can get the best out of whatever playing resources are at his disposal. In Italy, he is still sitting

through that material, still ascertaining when he can use the combative performer that Venables eschews, Paul Ince.

However, obliged to frustrate the team of his homeland tonight, to prolong, if he can, England's record of a solitary win from their past six games, Hodgson has an unexceptional team with which to work.

Switzerland are a celebration of competence. They are short of Stéphane Chapuisat, the injured striker, they rely in midfield on Clivio Skarza, born in Italy but naturalised five years ago, and Alain Suter, one of their attacking midfielders, recently released from Bayern Munich to Freiburg, barely conceals that he is playing tonight in the hope of attracting bids from England.

He wants to join the land of money. He has not got either the skill or the temperate failings of Gascoigne; but then, as Venables is the first to say, who has?

THE ENGLAND LINE-UP



Depleted Ireland look to McGrath

FROM PETER BALL
IN LONDON

SIX years after Manchester United tried to persuade him to retire, Paul McGrath will set a new Ireland appearance record when he wins his 79th cap against Portugal in the Benfica stadium here tonight. This game, in a packed ground, will determine the winners of group six in the European championship qualifying competition.

A draw or a defeat would leave Ireland's fate depending on the result of the group's other game tonight, between Northern Ireland and Austria in Belfast. Ireland need Austria to do no better than they do themselves, if they are to come second and so qualify for a play-off between the two

worse-placed second teams at Anfield next month.

Ireland's form since beating Portugal in Dublin in April does not give reason for optimism. If they fail to qualify, this game may mark the end of the road for McGrath, and perhaps for Houghton, Aldridge and even Townsend. It could also bring to a close the Jack Charlton era in Irish football.

There could hardly be more at stake, and the 20,000 Irish supporters expected at one of Europe's most dramatic venues will hope to see McGrath at his most influential.

Charlton, the manager, acknowledged last night that the chances of Townsend, his captain, being involved were slim at best. Townsend, who has a foot injury, was unable

to do any serious training yesterday. With Keane and Sheridan already missing, the loss of Townsend would leave the central midfield completely denuded of its regular members. Charlton is likely to play Jeff Keane as the holding player, and possibly employ Steve Staunton beside him.

However Charlton eventually juggles his resources, the defenders will need more protection than they received in Vienna, where the Austrians ran freely at the exposed back four and it appeared that the years were finally catching up with McGrath.

Against Latvia, he looked more comfortable with Babb back at his side, and the central defenders know that their performances against the dangerous Pinto and Domingos will be vital to Ireland's hopes.

Portugal (probable 4-4-2): V Bala (Porto), S. S. (S. S.), F. Costa (Porto), Helder (Benfica), P. Santos (Porto), C. Sousa (Sporting Lisbon), P. Sousa (Averano), P. Gomes (Averano), J. Pinto (Benfica), Domingos (Porto).

Ireland (probable 4-4-2): A. Kelly (Sheff. Wed. United), G. Kelly (Leeds United), P. McGuire (Aston Villa), P. Bala (Liverpool), D. Irwin (Manchester United), J. McGovern (Liverpool), J. Keane (Sheff. Wed. United), A. Suter (Aston Villa), S. Staunton (Aston Villa), S. Staunton (Aston Villa).

FIXTURES: Today: Portugal v Ireland, Northern Ireland v Austria.

Newlove puts transfer record in danger

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE



Newlove: on move

WIGAN are prepared to break their world rugby league transfer record in a deal worth between £500,000 and £600,000 for Paul Newlove, of Bradford Bulls. They are in competition with St Helens for the signature of the England and Great Britain centre.

Two deals, which involve money plus players, were considered at a meeting of Bradford directors last night to determine the transfer fate of Newlove, 24, who was placed on the list last month at £750,000. The existing record,

£440,000, was paid to Widnes by Wigan for Martin Offiah in January 1992.

Newlove underlined his exceptional talent in the recent World Cup and the policy of Wigan is to invest in the best. St Helens have offered £350,000 plus Sonny Nickle, the Great Britain second-row forward. To get the deal nearer the asking price, Bradford also asked St Helens club to part with Scott Gibbs. The former Wales and British Isles rugby union centre has made a considerable impact in 18 months in league.

Newlove became the youngest Great Britain player, at 18

years and 72 days, against New Zealand in 1989. His 52 tries in the 1992-93 season at Featherstone set a record for a centre. Whether alongside Gibbs or not, he would represent an important asset for St Helens, who, after Wigan priced Connolly away in 1993, are determined not to lose out. The Rugby Football League executive committee has decided, after watching a video, that Garry Schofield, the Leeds and former Great Britain captain, will not face action for an alleged head-butting incident in the defeat of Salford in the Regal Trophy on Sunday.

Sell-off follows troubled course at St Andrews

John Hopkins on a commercial venture that has angered residents at the home of golf

Golfers have been sitting and looking on the Old Course at St Andrews for 500 years, but some of the wildest shots are likely to be seen in the local town hall tonight at the annual public meeting of the St Andrews Links Trust, which administers the town's six famous courses. Present will be many townspeople angered by numerous recent changes made at the home of golf by the trust.

Considerable ill feeling has been caused by the trust's sale, in June, of 3,500 of the hallowed starting-times over the Old Course between April and November, beginning next year. The sale to Keith Prowse Hospitality, which bought the times on behalf of an American finance company, is expected to generate £5 million for the trust over the next ten years.

The sell-off strikes at the heart of St Andrews, a town that houses the largest golf complex in Europe. Thousands of visitors visit each year from around the world to play on the Old Course, which is a public course (green fee: £60) and is the most famous course in golf.

A significant number will now be unable to do so. If one assumes an average of three golfers for each starting-time, this means that, beginning next year, 10,500 golfers are going to be unable to play the Old Course — unless they take out a package with Keith Prowse that could cost as much as £900 per person for a two-day visit.

Opponents of this sale see it as a totally commercial venture that disadvantages the citizens of St Andrews, whose right to play over the Old Course is enshrined in an Act of Parliament. Furthermore, it is felt that, as the Keith Prowse packages are likely to be tied in with the larger hotels in and around St Andrews, many of the town's many small bed-and-breakfast establishments will suffer a loss of income because the golfers who traditionally stay

there will be unable to play on the Old Course.

Other criticisms of the Links Trust include the opening of a new practice centre that is sited so that it is possible to endanger golfers on the 16th fairway of the Old Course, the building of a new £3 million clubhouse, that is deemed to be too lavish, and the trust's decision to replace Walter Woods, the much respected links supervisor who retired at the end of the year, with a manager who has little knowledge of greenkeeping or agronomy.

One of the loudest voices raised in anger is that of Dr David Malcolm, a master at Madras College in St Andrews. "For 500 years, it has been the habit to hit balls here for nothing," Malcolm said.

"Now, they are charging £1 for 25 balls on the driving range. We are ordinary people, not millionaires."

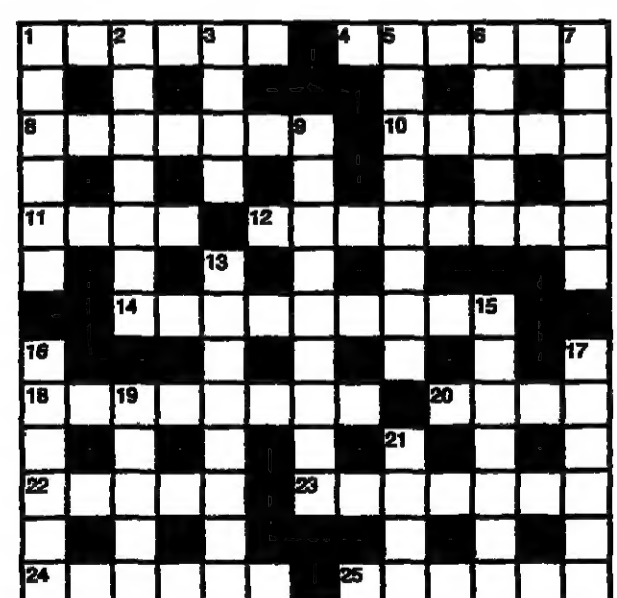
ing this are managers making jobs for managers and building a monument to themselves. They have got it wrong. They are taking golf out of the working man's orbit."

Control of the golf courses at St Andrews was taken over by the Links Trust in 1975. "The trust inherited a few clapped-out bits of mowing machinery and a small deficit," Peter Mason, the trust's external relations manager, said. "Since then, it has strengthened its financial position so that, since 1986, it has spent over £7 million, and expects to have to spend another £7 million in the next five years."

This cuts no ice with Malcolm and the critics, however. "We know why all was done," Malcolm said. "It was done to finance the mortgage of a Wentworth-type clubhouse that is totally unnecessary. For 150 years, there has been a superintendent of the links. These people do not know about golf. They are not golfers. They have no heritage in the game."

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 627



- ACROSS
- 1 Portray (6)
 - 4 Word: can support (6)
 - 8 Weedy young person (7)
 - 10 Blow; political influence (5)
 - 11 Cu mad: wild party (4)
 - 12 Little tape container (8)
 - 14 50s popular music (H.I.4)
 - 18 Sleeplessness (5)
 - 20 Seaweed-derived food (4)
 - 22 Christmas hymn (5)
 - 23 Diver (7)
 - 24 Disreputable, immoral behaviour (6)
 - 25 Crucial, dangerous moment (6)
- DOWN
- 1 Decorous, coy (6)
 - 2 Tedious bother; hubbub (7)
 - 3 Ready money (4)
 - 5 Forefather (8)
 - 6 Rejoice in other's misfortune (5)
 - 7 Puerile (6)
 - 9 Bringer of civil action (9)
 - 13 Sentimental mush (8)
 - 15 Pans and beans (7)
 - 16 Plate thrown by athletes (6)
 - 17 Lectures tediously; Wooster's club (6)
 - 19 Dispense (food); suffice; deliver ball (5)
 - 21 Dispense (liquid) (4)

SOLUTION TO No 626

ACROSS: 4 Tag 8 Abolish 9 Ariel 10 Dryad 11 Poultry 12 Doctrine 14 Deep 15 Hurt 16 Synopsis 20 Mayfair 21 Angst 23 Gaffe 24 Pulsate 25 SOS

DOWN: 1 Candid 2 Holy 3 Gilder 4 The penny drops 5 Gamut 6 Listless 7 Play up 13 Carry off 15 Homage 17 Oracle 18 Setter 19 Eaves 22 Glad

SOLUTION TO TIMES TWO CROSSWORD NO 622

In association with BRITISH MIDLAND

ACROSS: 1 Stock 5 Wrap 9 Lullaby 10 Nimrod 11 Well-read 12 Orise 15 Cheese 18 Magwitch 20 Fledge 22 Abeyant 23 Tune 24 Skewer

DOWN: 2 Tiller 3 Call love 4 Space 6 Beam 7 Porous 8 Lyndon 13 Intimate 14 Demean 16 Hold it 17 Seythe 19 Guess 21 Deem

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